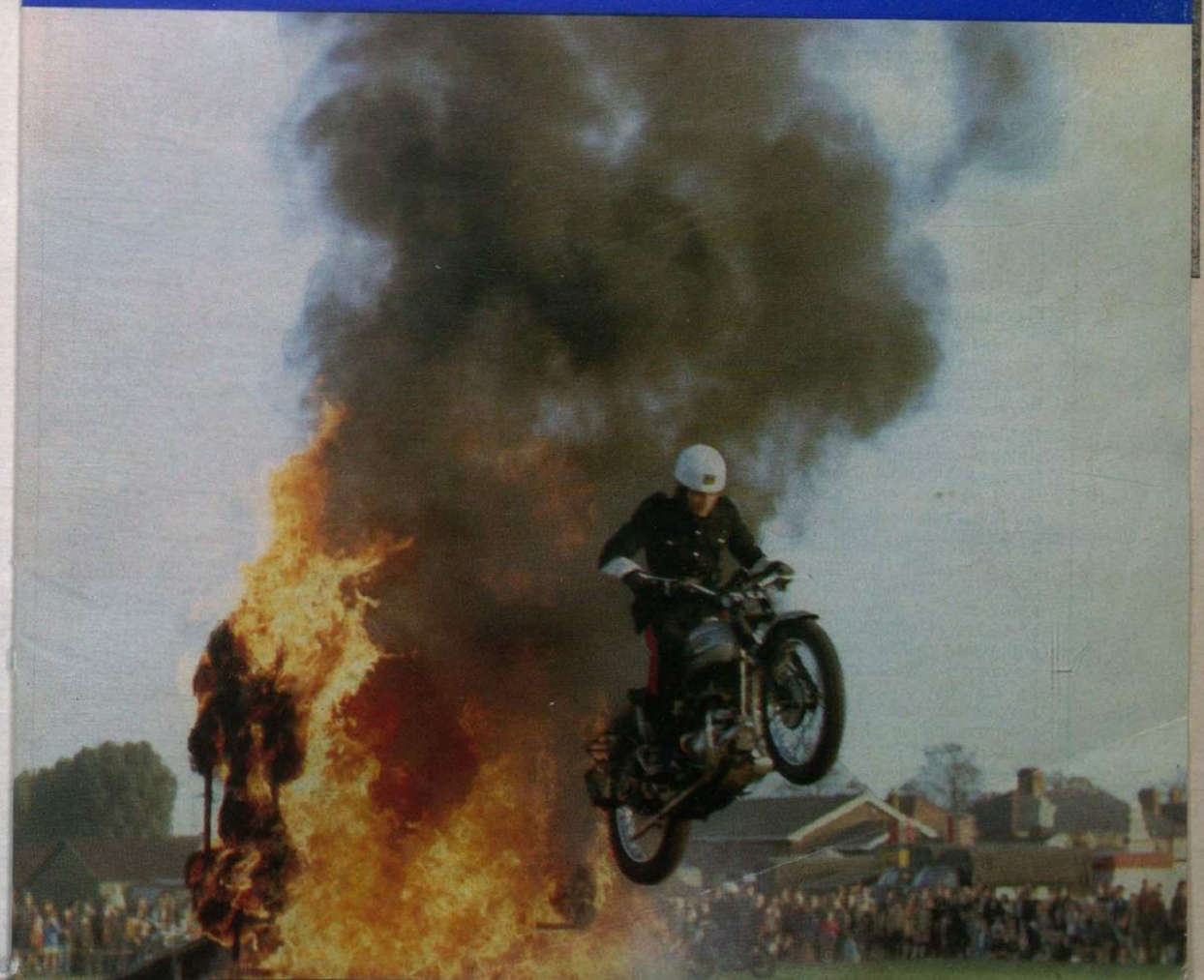
January-February 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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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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JANUARY/FEBRUARY • 1970

Vol. 24 (*New Series*) **No. 1**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We make no apologies for publishing another Display Team photograph depicting as it does that ideal combination, vivid colour allied to lively subject matter.

It also forms an appropriate lead-in to the eight-page section in the middle of this WIRE in which we highlight the exploits of 'The White Helmets' in North America during the autumn of 1969.

1970 is with us

IMPORTANT DATES IN 1970

Please make a note of the following dates in your diary **now** if they concern you:

11th April	Royal Signals Association Branch Representatives' Meeting, 31st. (Great London) Signal Regiment (V).
18th April	Indian Signals Annual Dinner, Duke of York's H.Q.
13th May	Royal Signals Officers' Dinner, Hyde Park Hotel.
20th June	Royal Signals Officers' Tea Party, Blandford Camp.
21st June	Royal Corps of Signals 50th Anniversary Service, Salisbury Cathedral, 11.15 a.m. Open Day, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, 2.30 p.m.
27th/28th June	Old Comrades' Weekend Reunion, Training Brigade, Catterick Camp.
27th November	Officers' Buffet Supper, 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V)
10th December	Joint Lecture—Institution of Electrical Engineers/ Royal Signals Institution, London.

PROVISIONAL ATTENDANCE FIGURES AT CORPS GATHERINGS

As mentioned in our Editorial columns (October/November WIRE), we are most anxious to receive provisional details of **all** retired members of the Corps, as well as of the Royal Signals Association, who would like to attend either, or both, of the gatherings on the 21st June and the 27th/28th June, mentioned above. These figures are required by the **28th February,** so that we can have some idea as to the numbers involved. It is appreciated that these figures can be only provisional, and all individuals and branches who write in in response to this appeal will be contacted again in May, so that their figures can be confirmed. If you belong to a Branch of the Association, please ensure your figures are included by the Hon. Secretary on his return, due in at Association H.Q. by the end of February. If you do not belong to a branch, write direct to the General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. (Tel.: 01-730-4129) giving details as follows (see overleaf):

(Continued on next page)

EDITORIAL—*(continued)*

Salisbury/Blandford Gathering

Numbers wishing to attend; numbers requiring seat in church; numbers marching after church and numbers requiring buffet lunch and tea at Blandford, on payment. For accommodation see below.

Catterick Reunion

Numbers wishing to attend; numbers requiring accommodation; numbers requiring seats at church.

Accommodation

Accommodation at Blandford is strictly limited, and it will only be possible to make the barest bed and breakfast arrangements on the Saturday night for Standard Bearers, escorts and branch parties (not individuals) coming from **more than 100 miles away.** Even then, there may not be enough accommodation to go round, and those branches which apply first will get priority.

Accommodation at Catterick is much easier, and it is hoped to be able to accommodate all who apply to be put up on the Saturday night. It is emphasised that accommodation is only available for **single members** attending. Those coming with families must make private arrangements, and in this connection, they are warned that the hotel situation is not easy in the immediate vicinity of Blandford. They should endeavour to book in **early** at nearby towns, such as Bournemouth, Poole, Salisbury, Andover.

It is also hoped to make camping facilities available at Blandford for those who can bring caravans or tents.

Branch Standards

It is hoped to have a good turnout of Branch Standards at the Salisbury Cathedral Service, and where branches cannot conveniently bring Standard Bearers and escorts with them in their own transport, the Association is prepared to pay the cost of petrol and incidental expenses of Standard Bearers and escorts travelling together in **one** car to Salisbury. Travel by rail to Salisbury/Blandford is **not** recommended. If necessary, escorts can probably be found from other Branches attending the service for those Branches who cannot find their own.

Founder Members

It is planned to form up a special 'Founder Members' section to lead the march past after the Catterick church service. At Salisbury a place of honour will be reserved for them at the saluting base. Founder members are deemed to be those who were actually serving in the Corps in 1920 —the year in which the Corps was formed. Individuals and Branches, when submitting attendance figures, should specify 'Founder Members' by name if any are proposing to come.

Serving Officers and Soldiers

The arrangements for officers and soldiers, regular and T.A.V.R., who wish to attend the Salisbury/Blandford celebrations, are being co-ordinated by H.Q., 1 Signal Group, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, who will shortly be issuing a proforma to all Headquarters and units for completion in respect of those wishing to attend.

Anyone wishing to attend the Catterick celebrations should get in touch with the Training Brigade, Royal Signals, Catterick Camp.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 'WIRE,' 1969

Omitted from this WIRE was the acknowledgement of a very generous donation of £100 from 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) to Association Benevolent Funds.

ROYAL SIGNALS WAR MEMORIAL FUND

From time to time enquiries are made about the position of the above fund which was subscribed to by many after the 1939-45 war.

The situation is as follows: The War Memorial Fund appeal resulted in some £31,000 being collected and after considerable thought had been given to its possible use by a specially appointed Corps Committee, it was decided that the money could best be spent in purchasing and setting-up two sea-side boarding houses at Colwyn Bay and Bournemouth. These boarding houses would primarily cater for those members of the Corps (serving and more particularly retired) who required a holiday but could ill afford to meet the expenses of a proper sea-side vacation. The proposed scheme was given full publicity throughout the Corps and the Association and, as it generally received popular support, it was put into operation. Unfortunately, the plan did not work out financially and, despite the hard work and loyalty in particular of **Major and Mrs. Dunningham,** at Bournemouth, after struggling along for some years both boarding houses had to be sold up at considerable capital loss to the fund.

The residue of the original capital was then handed over to the Royal Signals Association to be held in trust. The interest deriving from this capital is now used to provide holidays for ex-members of the Corps—particularly the old, the infirm and widows—who cannot otherwise afford to get away for a change and a rest.

Holidays in the last few years have been provided for individuals as follows:

1967 — 35
1968 — 32
1969 — 37

It will be seen, therefore, that the fund is still doing good work despite its reduced resources.

From our "In" Tray

'WIRE' TITLE

Sir,

Now that we have a new-look WIRE magazine may I suggest that it is time that we brought the title up-to-date. The present name has nostalgic connections with the past, but we are living in a time of change, and the younger element in the Corps may well take a greater interest in a magazine which, by its title, appears to have something to do with them—the pictorial cover is a great step forward in this direction.

Many suitable titles spring to mind, but some are already in use, e.g., 'The Communicator'—Royal Navy and 'Aerial'—B.B.C. Perhaps opinions as to whether a change is desirable, and suggested titles, could be canvassed throughout the Corps (not just present readers). How about 'The Signaller.'

Yours faithfully,
P. H. Grant (Captain).

Bielefeld Signal Troop,
B.F.P.O. 39.

(THE WIRE *has appeared every month for fifty years (except during World War II) under its well-known and proud title* THE WIRE. *Do we really want to change it? 'Punch,' the 'Illustrated London News' and similar publications have had facelifts but still retain their original titles, dating back many years.—Editor).*

'OLDE WORLDE' WIRELESS STALWARTS

Some memories return

Sir,

A flood of memories returned when I read **Mr. Scantlebury's** plea (November/December) regarding olde worlde Indian wireless operators of yesteryears. As one who received the R.A.F. Miranshah message many times, which, of course, should read FINE FINE CALM CLEAR GOOD YES, I have often yearned for a reunion of Waziristan Signal personnel. Where have all the old soldiers gone? They cannot all have faded away. It would be good to meet them all again. **Paddy Burk, Jacky Easton, Mooshe Castle, Burr Baron, Dodger Green, Jock Morrison, Fred Wyatt, Charlie McDonald, Pinto Pyne, Shorty Oddonnel, Joe Carrot, Lofty Langley, Charlie Chisnell,**

Satch, Sweeny, Toddy, to mention but a few of the over-worked and unpaid stalwarts of the era in question. Happy days indeed, except when it rained on column, and the rum ration was in a yak-dan on the back of a mule, with the advance party. I remember **'Busty' Allen** and myself taking refuge under a Popham Panel one stormy night, miles out in the blue, and waking up looking like a couple of nigger minstrels. It took a long time to get all the dye off.

I remember vividly the day the piano arrived in the mud hut we had built ourselves at Wana. "Another sack, George," was the cry of the evening, and Murree breweries must have been hard put to to keep up with the beer demand that went on all night. The putting to bed of our popular O.C., the one and only G-D, and the carol singing with **Paddy Burk** holding the lantern . . . Shades of Salig Ram!

Memories also returned, of the ASA saving scheme (Marie Lloyd in charge) where rumour had it that if we saved too much, there would be a reduction in our Army pay; and of reporting sick, to receive the usual sick report of IAT three days, which meant, in medical jargon, inflamation of the arterial tissues, bed down for three days, irrespective of whether one had sandfly fever or constipation.

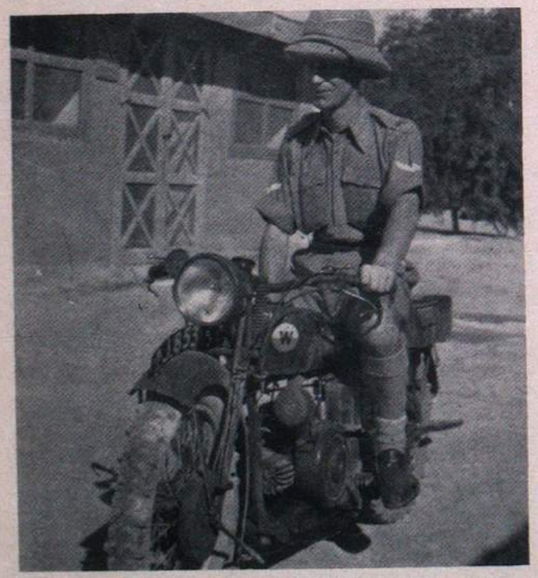
Who can forget the heartbreaking 'bull' that went on prior to guard-mounting, in a vain effort to get stick-man, knowing full well that unless one played a musical instrument, it was useless to try, anyway.

There must be quite a few of us left who can remember the holy man in his priest hole, just outside the main gate of Fort Akal Garh, Dera Ismail Khan, of Shaffee, the bearer, lofty, the head boy, and the Regimental trumpeter who played 'Retreat' so well when the flag was lowered each evening, although I must say his sounding of 'Reveille' wasn't appreciated quite so much. Of long hours in the transmitter room and the inevitable tinkering with the relays to reduce aerial output, and so close down the group, in order to get in a few games of tennis before darkness set it.

I sincerely trust that we shall hear more in the future from those who received the one medal that Monty never got, and that 'Arora' photographs will be prominently displayed in future copies of THE WIRE. I enclose one myself.

Yours faithfully,
Don Banham, Major (Retd.)

Bellapais, 12, Greenways,
Egham Hill, Surrey.



Major Banham, then Lance-Corporal Don Banham, at Eggerton Lines, Bannu, India, in 1935. The motor cycle, a 350cc horizontal twin cylinder Douglas, the standard issue mount of the day. The owner was Spike Stanley

A postscript by Colonel R. M. Adams—Corps Historical Officer

The Faqir mentioned by **Don Banham** gradually increased his shrine so that it was propped up against the outer mud wall of the armoury of Fort Akal Garh. It appeared impossible for the Resident to evict the Faqir without provoking a Jehad (holy war), so the Sappers lined the armoury with steel plates.

In Razcol, the Section Sergeant, **Micky Woolhouse,** was traditionally entitled to sleep in the Popham Panel. His Brigade Signal Officer could occasionally use 'the cheese,' the three-quarter circle which indicated column headquarters to aircraft. On the snowy Sham Plain column of 1935, the only signals tent was that allotted to the 'C' set, and a mule had chewed a hole in my 'cheese.' The Brigadier, **Sir John Marshall,** scrounged an 80lb. tent from the Field Ambulance and this he shared with the B.M. and Staff Captain. The 2/1st Punjab were accompanied by their rations on the hoof (live goats): these rations, seeking shelter from the snow, got into the Brigadier's tent at about 03.00 hours, and it was dawn before peace was restored. Sir John ate the C.O. of the 2/1st for breakfast and was pernickety about his communication for the rest of the day.

R.M.A.

Changing guard at Fort Akal Gark, 1934

Sham Plain column reaches Damdil, 1935

FUN WITH A CAMEL

Sir,

Your front cover picture, December/January issue, reminded me of an exercise held in Egypt in the mid-thirties. I was in Egypt Signals with the Canal Brigade Signal Section, under **Brigadier Pile,** later A.A. Command boss, during the last war. In this exercise all stores and equipment were carried on camels. Something like 2,000 were used. I was with a pack wireless set detachment. The set used was the 'A' set, a one-valve transmitter on I.c.w. and on three-valve receivers. This, I believe, was the first set used for pack wireless.

My co-operator and self had some difficulty at halts in trying to open up as the camel we used had to be hobbled each time to allow us to get near enough to load and unload. The result was we were always struggling to catch up the Brigade.

A visual signal terminal (this was the time of lamp, flag and heliograph) had found it impossible to unload their equipment through the viciousness of the camel who picked up one of the operators, **'Busty' King,** by the shoulder of his greatcoat and shook him like a terrier shaking a rat. Eventually the Brigade Signal Section Sergeant, **'Jack' Laurie,** appeared to find out the cause of delay in communications. He then attempted to show us how to unload the camel, but to the great amusement of the rest of the section he was observed doing even time over the sand dunes with the camel in hot pursuit. I never did find out the outcome.

Yours,
B. J. Jordon, ex-R.Q.M.S. 2318559.

15, Downview Close,
Downside, Cobham,
Surrey.

Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. J. HAMILTON

A. J. Hamilton, who died on 29th November, after a long illness, joined in 1931. Until 1938, when he reached **'B'** Corps Signals, India, he had served in Aldershot and Blackdown.

He served in 1 Wireless Regiment from 1950 until joining 18 Air Formation in 1953. He was then S.O.2 in Middle East Air Force and from 1956 had a similar appointment in North West District. He retired in 1959.

Our deep sympathy is expressed to his wife, **Joan,** and their children.

LANCE-CORPORAL E. WIDDOWSON

260 Signal Squadron (SAM) write:

It is with the greatest regret that we have to report the death of **Lance-Corporal Edmund Widdowson** as a result of a traffic accident on the night of 21st November. He was the driver of a four-ton truck which collided with a civilian car and then overturned.

Lance-Corporal Widdowson joined Royal Signals in July, 1950, and served in Malaya during the emergency, Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles and in B.A.O.R. He left the Army for a period of four years between 1955 and 1959, but decided to return and was completing a 22-year engagement. Recently he had served with 19th Signal Regiment, joining 260 Signal Squadron (SAM) in September of this year.

Ted Widdowson was one of those capable, experienced tradesmen who are the backbone of the Corps. He was a B1 lineman, a cinema projectionist and a driving instructor who has passed on his skill to many young soldiers in the units in which he has served.

The sympathy of all who knew and respected him goes out to his wife and two young daughters in their tragic loss.

MAJOR (Q.M.) H. G. STICKLEY

Many of the older members of the Corps will remember that well-known figure **Harry Stickley.** Prominent in pre-war days at the Depot and later in India, he was a byword with many for his erect soldierly figure and his very military, Guards Sergeant-Major-type approach. During the war he was R.S.M. with the Guards Armoured Divisional Signals, and later he promoted to a Q.M. Commission. Harry was undoubtedly a character, much liked by many. His death will come as sad news to his many friends.

Francis Grant writes: Harry was buried in Hamburg on 17th November, 1969, after a comparatively short illness, which stemmed from a tumour operation which he underwent about a year ago. Harry settled here after his retirement in 1957 from 28th Signal Regiment. I was fortunate to be present at his dining-out, and the then C.O. of the Regiment was **Colonel Peter Goodeve-Docker** who had, as a young subaltern in India, the good fortune to have as his Troop Sergeant, **Harry Stickley.**

From time to time I met Harry in Hamburg, and last saw him a few months ago. He remained, as always, a typical old soldier—spick and span and ram-rod straight. He was, for years, a teacher of English in the Berlitz School here, and latterly conducted private classes with an important oil firm. He was treasured as a teacher and, as far as I can learn, remained a typical Army instructor to the last; his methods were uncompromising—"repeat, repeat, repeat." It is said that in the thousands of hours that Harry taught English to German Directors down to typists, he never spoke a word of German and that his results were phenomenal. He was a well-known figure in the English Community in Hamburg and remained, always, an English gentleman.

After leaving the Corps (35 years' service) he was happy and dedicated in his life in Hamburg and the Corps is the poorer of one of its 'originals.'

SINGAPORE JUDGE PRAISES PUBLIC-SPIRITED SOLDIER

(From a P.R. Report)

Mr. Justice Kulasekaram, when sentencing two thugs to ten years for attempted murder, praised three members of the Services from RAF Seletar for their "excellent team work and public spiritedness" in breaking up a knife attack by three thugs and the apprehension of one of them.

Corporal James Rodger, of 19th Signal Regiment, Royal Signals, based at RAF Seletar, was walking home for an early lunch, "with his mind on other things," when about twenty yards from his front door he heard the cry "Stop those men." Bearing down on him were two men on bicycles with a third running between them. "I flung out my one free arm and grabbed without success, so lashed out at a back wheel with my foot." As **Corporal Rodger's** foot happened to have an Army boot on, the rider lost control and **Corporal Rodger,** having dropped what he was carrying, struggled with the rider and had him almost under control when the RAF Flight Lieutenant caught up. The apprehension of one thug led to the arrest of a second. After numerous statements the early lunch was not quite what it might have been.

The incident took place in June when there was considerable racial tension in Singapore after the riots in Malaysia. The Judge went on to say that "Had it not been for their presence and assistance, the vicious and cruel attack might have been repeated elsewhere."

HE HELPED TO BREAK UP A KNIFE ATTACK
Corporal James Rodger of 19th Signal Regiment with his wife and seven month old daughter

Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief to 1st British Corps

MAJOR-GENERAL P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., and Mrs. Pentreath had a very full programme when they visited the 1st British Corps. If the aim of the visit was to see as much of our activities and to meet as many of the Corps as was humanly possible, this aim was more than achieved. We are all most grateful for the sustained interest shown by **Major-General and Mrs. Pentreath** in our on and off-duty lives, and in our families.

There follows an account from each Regiment of their own visit. A central occasion not covered in these Regimental notes was the talk given by the Signal Officer-in-Chief to all senior Royal Signals' officers in 1st British Corps on Tuesday, 28th October. This frank and wide-ranging brief was particularly stimulating for those of us who spend our time immersed in our own day-to-day problems, with little time to look much farther ahead than the next major exercise.

At a cocktail party given by C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier J. M. Sawers, M.B.E.,** on the 31st October, our visitors met many Royal Signals' officers and their ladies.

7th SIGNAL REGIMENT — 28th OCTOBER

Having been met by the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and R.S.M. of the Regiment he once commanded, the S.O.-in-C. inspected the quarter guard. After coffee he moved on to the Training School, where he unveiled a name board endowing one of the Training School's three blocks with the name 'Pentreath Block.'

Then **W.O.II T. J. Cushen, W.O.II J. K. Roberts, Sergeant K. Le Montais** and **Sergeant A. T. Green** were presented with their L.S. and G.C. Medals. **Foreman Kitchen** received his Corps Colours to add to his already impressive list of sailing achievements, and the Regimental small-bore team (**Staff Sergeant Hassal, Staff Sergeant Meachin, Staff Sergeant Treharne, Staff Sergeant Kitchen** (again!), **Staff Sergeant Taffinder, Corporal Preston** and **Signalman Maddock**) were presented with their Regimental Colours.

The S.O.-in-C. then moved down into South Camp where he visited the Technical Workshops before meeting the civilian staff, who had been assembled by **Frau Brose** in 'H.Q.' Squadron offices.

After drinks with the Senior N.C.O.s and Warrant Officers, and a buffet lunch in the Officers' Mess, **Major-General Pentreath** saw a 'Bruin' demonstration. This consisted of a Comhead situated in their barracks. The next item on the programme was to see 4 Squadron — H.Q. Covering Force — demonstrating V.H.F.

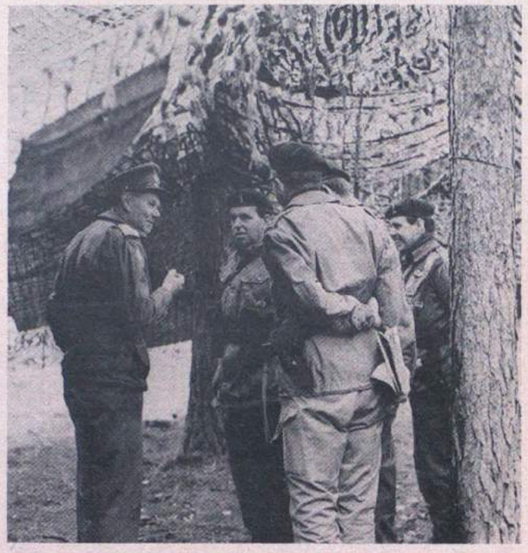
Meanwhile, back at the L.A.D., frantic efforts were being made to receive our visitors. Having watched the preparations within the Regiment with some complacency, an item on the programme was discovered at the last moment. "And there it was—'Visit L.A.D.—tucked away on the BACK of the —— programme," was all **Captain Kelly, O.C. L.A.D.,** was heard to say for a considerable time afterwards. "Visit L.A.D." passed off successfully, however, and ended the visit of the S.O.-in-C.

Mrs. Pentreath spent a busy day meeting the wives of the Regiment and visiting our married quarters in Herford, Brake and Enger.

2 DIV. H.Q. & SIGNAL REGIMENT — 29th OCTOBER

After almost two weeks of good weather for 6 and 12 Brigade full troop exercises, 2nd Division greeted the S.O.-in-C's flying visit with rain, fog and high winds. So **Major-General Pentreath** was grounded from the start, but managed to arrive at Scharnhorst to be greeted by **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Sturge.** 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment was forming control headquarters for the FTXs and was drying out after the downpour when the S.O.-in-C. arrived.

Because of other commitments, 27 Flight A.A.C. were not able to provide its usual back-up for VIP flights, so the General's Sioux was hotly pursued to Comcen 'Foxtrot' by a Land Rover as TSB transport (and finding a comcen by following helicopters with the aid of a B.A.O.R. road map is not easy!).



THE SO-in-C AT COMCEN FOXTROT
With Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Adams, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Sturge, Captain G. Maude, (hair only), Major J. Fender

Captain Geoff Maude's hilltop empire, in addition to its other delights, arranged a telephone call to MOD London for the General with the connivance of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Adams, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) McDermid,** and the aid of the technicians, radio relaymen, linemen and operators.

Moving (again pursued by a Land Rover) to **Major David Milton's Squadron** at 6 Brigade, the 'sharp end' displayed its warlike abilities in camouflage, trench-digging and providing excellent VIP lunches.

On returning to Scharnhorst, **R.S.M. Brian Cleaver** conducted a mystery tour around the Regiment at Control H.Q. until **Major-General Pentreath** left for Verden, again in a gale, by car.

1 DIV. H.Q. & SIGNAL REGIMENT — 29th and 30th OCTOBER

Operation Bremen 1969

From the work that went on behind the scenes for the evening of 29th October, the whole affair should have worked like a well-oiled machine. The idea was to give the S.O.-in-C. and **Mrs. Pentreath** an evening's entertainment with a difference —not the usual formal guest night.

The evening *was* unusual. It started in 'Jimmy's' (our cellar bar) with a small stimulant. A 'bus was booked to transport us, smoked-salmon sandwiches and several magnums of champagne, to Bremen. However, it broke down and failed to arrive to pick us up. Undaunted, we all leapt into our cars. A long convoy of vehicles moved to the autobahn in the direction of the metropolis, arriving at the theatre with two minutes to 'curtain-up.'

The evening's entertainment was 'Pariser Leben,' by Offenbach. There was a little consternation as to which Offenbach this was—Fred, Hans, or the famous Jacques. It was, in fact, J. Offenbach, and the operetta is better known as 'Vie Parisienne.' It was a most spirited performance.

The performance over, it was decided to walk to the famous Rathaus, where we had booked a room. The walk was just over a mile, but the town was in festive mood, in the middle of one of the Bremerfreimarkt festivals.

In the Rathaus, the locals were celebrating to the music of a teutonic band. The atmosphere was intoxicating, with massive wine-barrels down one side of the cellar and equally massive Germans down the other.

The journey back to Verden was steady and no records were broken. The following day it was decided that **General and Mrs. Pentreath,** having been rushed at breakneck speed to Bremen, watched an energetic performance and dined in a very noisy Rathaus, would probably now enjoy a 'dull old guest night.' The only regret is that the evening could never be repeated.

The following morning, **General Pentreath,** accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant - Colonel W. T. MacFarlane,** visited the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, the Regimental Training Centre, and 1 Squadron. The latter were formed up in the glorious array on Caithness Square, practising for Exercise 'Small Pack.' Unfortunately torrential rain curtailed their moment of glory, and the S.O.-in-C.'s well-remembered penchant for checking the underside of vehicles was not evident on the day.

Lunch was taken in the Officers' Mess in company with the G.O.C., 1st Division, **Major-General A. M. Taylor, M.C.,** and his senior staff officers. All Royal Signals officers were, of course, present.

General Pentreath showed a great interest in all members of the Regiment whom he met, and quickly put everyone at ease.

The impression was gained that he would have welcomed more time with us—we hope so, anyway!

4 DIV. H.Q. & SIGNAL REGIMENT — 30th and 31st OCTOBER

On Thursday, 30th October, **Major-General and Mrs. Pentreath** motored from Verden to Herford, arriving in time for tea at the Commanding Officer's residence before launching into the evening's programme, which consisted of drinks-cum-buffet supper-cum-dance in the Officers' Mess. We were delighted that **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Sawers** and our two Brigade Squadron Commanders and their wives were able to join all the Regimental Officers on this occasion.

During the evening a number of officers were astounded at the General's knowledge of their past!

The S.O.-in-C. did not arrive in the Regiment until mid morning on Friday as, accompanied by his ADC, **Second-Lieutenant Stuart,** he left Herford after breakfast to keep an appointment with the Corps Commander, and then returned to Wentworth Barracks to meet the G.O.C. 4th Division, **Major-General D. W. Fraser, O.B.E.**

To start the General's tour of the Regiment, **Y. of S. Travers** and his team successfully demonstrated the removal of a BRUIN container from its flat platform by high-lift jacks. Our 'novel' armoured tactical headquarters then provided some controversial talking points—the three ACVs on troop trials were of particular interest to the S.O.-in-C.

The above programme was punctuated with a visit to the C.R.A., 4th Division, **Brigadier D. F. A. T. Baines, M.B.E.,** and an officers' group photograph—the latter being accompanied by the usual cries—"canes! no canes! gloves! no gloves!"

Drinks and lunch were taken in the Sergeants' Mess. The R.S.M., **W.O.I A. R. Hill,** and his committee had laid on an excellent meal, and curry or beef stroganoff proved too difficult a choice for some, who only solved the problem by 'seconds' of the other dish! **Sergeant McMahon** was very disappointed that the General had insufficient time in the Mess to demonstrate his prowess at conkers or carpet bowls.

The tour continued with visits to the Training Wing, soldiers' accommodation, 'M' Troop, the L.A.D. and the Quadrant Club.

The culmination of the afternoon was provided by potted sports and a comhead race. The potted sports, or mass hysteria, were arranged by **Major Stork** and **C.S.M.I. Tye.** The General was intrigued at some of the 12 fiendish activities which were being tackled by 12 teams of five men each, with enthusiasm and determination. The S.O.-in-C. presented the prizes to the winners—M.T. Troop, ably led by **Corporal Rafferty,** and the runners-up, A1 Troop, led by **Captain Lance.**

The Comhead race was started by the S.O.-in-C. dropping a flag. A burst of activity, a flurry of cable and the roar of generators left no doubt that the race was on. The comheads set up with their radio relay detachments, establishing a working circuit, and a line was laid with buried and pole crossings. A message was first passed by phonogram over the line to the message centre and then by 'printer' over the radio relay link to the comcen. Time penalties were added for faults and bad workmanship. **Major Hartnett** judged the 'Tac' comhead, led by **Sergeant Moore,** to be narrow victors over **Corporal Lund's** 'Div' team.

Before departing, **Major-General Pentreath** returned to R.H.Q. for a final discussion with **Lieutenant-Colonel Stonham.**

Mrs. Pentreath had a no less active day. With **Mrs. Stonham,** and conducted by **Lieutenant Thomas,** she visited three different types of quarters. Those of **Mrs. Shaft, Mrs. Cole** and **Mrs. Lynch** were chosen. **Mrs. Pentreath** was also interested to see the Families' Medical Centre in action. A mammoth Wives' Club coffee party in the Quadrant Club proved a very successful mid-morning interlude.

A lunch party at the Commanding Officers' residence was a pleasant lead into a well-earned and relatively quiet afternoon.

We sincerely hope the **General** and **Mrs. Pentreath** enjoyed their visit as much as we enjoyed having them with us.

22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT — 3rd NOVEMBER

General and **Mrs. Pentreath** visited the Regiment when it was deployed in the field on a local Regimental exercise. The visit was unfortunately a brief one, but the General was invited to visit No. 3 Squadron in the field location and spoke to many of the Squadron's tradesmen. A quick trip back to the barracks enabled the R.S.M. to entertain the Signal Officer-in-Chief in the Sergeants' Mess. The numbers present were considerable; it is surprising how many fleet-footed Warrant Officers and Sergeants managed to return from the exercise areas in order to talk to the General!

The Officers of the Regiment were also able to regroup quickly enough to entertain the **General** and **Mrs. Pentreath** to lunch. It is only to our regret that the time available was so short, but all ranks were delighted to have had the opportunity to receive the visitors.

And so the S.O.-in-C's first visit to the 1 (BR) Corps soon came to a close. We hope that the programme was not too rushed, and that he and **Mrs. Pentreath** will be with us again soon, when perhaps time can be found to see some of the Brigade Squadrons as well.

One million pounds is the target

Gurkha Welfare Appeal Fund

Our readers may remember the article in THE WIRE *of August/September describing how Gurkhas have served our country for 150 years, but are now being run down to almost nominal strength. The result is that welfare funds for their pensioners will now be quite inadequate. The Brigade of Gurkhas is trying to establish a fund to provide help for the many ex-soldiers and their families after they retire in Nepal. The following article describes an activity of the Gurkha Signal Regiment and indicates how the Regiment maintains the tradition of the Gurkhas and the Corps.*

Contributed by
17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O., Seremban

AT the beginning of the year, when the title of the wider appeal was still under discussion, the aim of the Brigade of Gurkhas had been firmly decided. To raise money through the efforts of members, past and present, in order to form a solid foundation for a world-wide appeal to be launched at the end of the year. The funds so raised would be put in the hands of Trustees, invested, and the interest used at the discretion of the Trustees to alleviate hardship amongst ex-H.M. Gurkhas and their dependants in the hills of Nepal.

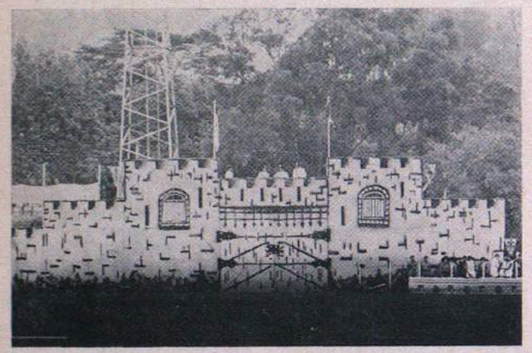
The Regiment was set its own target, and the first conference was held to decide how to achieve this end. Ultimately it was decided to hold a 'Gurkha Week' on the most ambitious scale ever attempted in the area.

First Day—and the rain comes flashing down

Like the 'Execution of Montrose,' the first day of the week, Sunday, dawned very dull and the rain came flashing down. Our 'warmer' was to be a 'flag' march, through the town. The word 'flag' was a misnomer, because there were not many flags in the procession, but a pipe band, marching troops, floats on 3-tonners, and some mounted radio detachments whetted the appetites of the locals, who materialised from nowhere to line the damp streets. Minutes before the start, the rain stopped and the sun came out. This, according to those wise Chinese, was a good omen for the week.

The Q.M. was building his castle . . .

Monday was the day of the football match, to be played in the Town Padang. The British Combined Services XI were matched against a Negri Sembilan Invitation XI. The game was well attended, exciting and prolific in goals. The Services won, 5—3, but it was an exhibition game to be remembered. As the players left the pitch, O.C. 2 and his instant tattoo moved in. Our resident Sappers had some problems in explaining the intricacies of scaffolding techniques to enthusiastic signallers, but over the next two days the stand, the control tower and the castle gradually took shape. The Q.M. was



The Q.M.'s Castle . . . . was one of the many and varied attractions of the Gurkha Welfare Week

building his castle whilst preparing the stage for the concert scheduled for Tuesday night. The T.O.T. was installing sound effects and lighting on both Padang and stage whilst practising the odd bit of magic in his quieter moments. O.C. 3 had somehow assembled his cast of Maoris, Malays, Thais, Gurkhas, T.O.T.s, Chinese, Indians, Philippinos and, with one rehearsal under his belt, put on a show that would have graced the Royal Albert Hall. The climax of the evening (apart from the T.O.T. sawing his wife in half) was the Maori concert party of 1 R.N.Z.I.R., which practically raised the roof. Altogether, it was a miracle of multi-racial co-operation.

Wednesday was a breather, with a comparatively simple invitation hockey match between a Brigade of Gurkhas XI and a Negri Sembilan XI. It was a good game, and the State avenged their defeat on the football field by winning 6—2. As the hockey teams left their pitch, the helicopters of the opening tattoo act flew in to join the scrum of rehearsers on the next door Padang.

The witch doctor was given strict instructions . . .

Throughout Thursday morning and afternoon, chairs, men and materials were swapping locations at alarming speeds. The castle appeared finished, as if by magic (not the T.O.T., but the Q.M. this time). The Bomoh (witch doctor) had been given strict instructions on the amount of rainfall that could be tolerated. His services had been recommended by H.R.H. The Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of the State, and so his was a Royal Command Performance. He did not fail us on either nights of the tattoo, and he was therefore re-enlisted for a complete day on Sunday, the day of the funfair.

Six thousand children

At the rehearsal we had our first taste of crowd control as six thousand children swarmed into the stadium. Lessons learnt—it is easy to get a thousand children out of their seats for a better view of a free-fall drop (which unfortunately never happened, due to negative wind) but it is very difficult to get them back into the stand again. Some of the children spent most of the time peering skywards awaiting a visitation. The performance went very well and the children were delighted. There were many people outside the ground, being moved on by the ever-busy police, but this crowd and the returning children were to be our best ambassadors for the next night.

. . . and five thousand adults

There was some apprehension about the control of five thousand adults, and extra barriers and roped ways were installed on Friday morning. These proved very necessary for the performance that evening.

Activity in the Chinese Hall continued all Friday in preparation for the gala ball. The tattoo cast polished their acts, and O.C. 2 continued in prayer. He need not have worried, as the performance, in the presence of the G.O.C. and H.R.H., would have been worthy of the Royal Tournament. The Adjutant learnt more about crowd control at first hand. Never feel sorry for the one ticket holder on the wrong side of the closed gate. To open it for his admission is to get oneslf trampled underfoot by a dulge of bodies and to be locked out oneself, as the final insult.

The zenith of concurrency

On Saturday, activity reached a zenith of concurrency, and at least one officer found himself telephoning himself at another location. Men and tentage released from the tattoo were immediately whisked away to prepare the funfair. 'F' shelters may have been intended for field hospitals, but they do make excellent funfair stalls. Our crane driver put together a great concrete pipe for the .22 range; a static display of apparently fascinating military vehicles, and plant started to form up, and the Noddy Train had a few dummy runs. The Education Officer's empire, sited in the local town hall, adjoining the fairground, began to look like a supermarket. The jumble stall was especially reinforced and armour plated, and the bottle stall, with close on two thousand bottles to win, stretched from floor to ceiling. The wives took one last look at the inviting array of toys and goods, so carefully laid out, before the hall was locked for the night. That same quiet scene presented a very frenzied spectacle at 10 a.m. the following morning when the doors opened.

The ball, on Saturday evening, organised for us by a committe of influential local people, was graciously attended by the Royalty of the State and many other notable personalities. The climax of the evening was the draw for the grand raffle—first prize, an Austin Mini; second prize, a trip to Hong Kong for two; and eight other excellent items. The Paymaster's paper computer was such that from 50,000 tickets sold, he was able to produce the names and addresses of winners, as the tickets were drawn. First prize went, appropriately to an Indian cowherd, who was partially crippled by polio. We have since heard that he now owns his own herd. The curfew unfortunately signalled the end of the ball at 2 a.m., but the stalwarts remained clearing up until 4 a.m., when the curfew lifted and they were able to escape for a couple of hours' sleep.

Eighth day—punch-drunk, but happy

Rather punch-drunk, but happy, the Regiment entered its eighth day of activity under clear blue skies. What a Bomoh! O.C. 2 Squadron had retired, happy, with a virus (nervous exhaustion, poor chap) to his bed. The town hall was in turmoil and outside, on the fairground, thousands of Seremban tes tried their hands at Aunt Sally, Bomber, Blowpipe and Treasure Hunt, etc. Free-fall parachutists had the crowd spellbound for most of the day, dropping in on the small, cleared area with amazing accuracy.

As the day cooled into evening, more and more people kept arriving, but stocks of Mee and toffee apples, as well as the stallholders, were all exhausted. At 19.00 hours we started to clear away and Gurkha Week was over.

(*Continued on page 9*)

It had been a very busy eight days, preceded by months of detailed planning and hard work. It was an undoubted success and financially very worthwhile. Throughout, our watchword had been value for money, and in this, immodestly, we think we succeeded. The essence of success was close co-operation with the local citizens; one clearly-written instruction covering every aspect of each event, and monthly co-ordinating meetings. It was hard work, good fun, and proved that by aiming high and applying normal military principles, a small, but determined Regiment, can successfully carry off any major enterprise. Any volunteers for a Gurkha fortnight?

The Result

Due to progressive redundancy, the strength of the 17th Gurkha Regiment has hovered at about the 300 mark during 1969. The Regiment has, however, raised M.$100,000 during the year. This is over £12,500. The 'Week' realised more than £7,000. With the sum raised by our two Brigade Squadrons (48th Brigade in Hong Kong and 99th Brigade in Singapore) the Gurkha Signals' total is now over £15,000. The target for the world-wide Gurkha Appeal is, however, £1 million, and even greater efforts than ours are necessary to achieve it.

If any readers have had service with or experience of soldiering with Gurkhas they may well want to contribute to this appeal. Any contributions will be gratefully received by:

Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Parkinson, M.B.E.,
Hon. Secretary, Gurkha Signals Association,
Lowfields House,
933 Leeds Road,
Dewsbury, Yorks.,

who will provide more information if it is required.

Movements

Officers

Major K. E. P. Andrews	To	M.O.D. Signals 31
Lieutenant-Colonel (Tft.) R. Barrett	,,	M.O.D. Signals 4
Lieutenant C. W. Bone	,,	School of Army Aviation
Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E.	,,	M.O.D. A.G.11, as Colonel
Captain (T.O.T.) R. C. Boulter	,,	22nd Regiment
Captain A. H. Boyle	,,	Cambridge Univ. O.T.C.
Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.	,,	4 Signal Group
Major J. C. Campbell	,,	2(E) Cadet Training Team
Major J. R. B. Cross	,,	11th Regiment
Captain J. Crich	,,	11th Regiment
Captain R. F. L. Cook	,,	R.M.C. of S.
Major G. J. Chitty	,,	4 Comns. Unit
Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre, M.B.E.	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.)
Lieutenant R. G. Drake	,,	1 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Major G. W. Gittins	,,	1 Div. H.Q. & Sig. Regt. as C.O.
Major C. J. Gilbert	,,	19th Regiment as C.O.
Major R. Holmes	,,	School as Lieutenant-Colonel
Captain (T.O.T.) L. C. Hooper	,,	Telecomms. Group, B.A.O.R.
Major G. A. M. Holland	,,	3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt.
Capt. D. Hunt	,,	School
Major (Q.M.) P. H. Johnstone	,,	SHAPE Sub Unit
Captain K. B. S. Kent	,,	H.Q. Gurkha L. of C.
Major D. P. J. Lavender	,,	School
Captain F. A. May	,,	13th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. J. Massey, M.B.E.	,,	H.Q. Southern Comd. (U.K.L.F.)
Major J. D. Morris	,,	7th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) J. J. M. Nutt	,,	18th Regiment
Lieutenant I. J. Oddie	,,	3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Pounds	,,	M.O.D. (U.K. rep. A.R.F.A.)
Major C. A. M. Robertson	,,	13th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) R. Reid	,,	241 Squadron
Major P. S. Reader	,,	19th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant V. J. Reed	,,	21st Regiment
Lieutenant I. D. Reading	,,	A.A.C., Harrogate
Major F. Smith	,,	16th Regiment
Captain J. E. Stockill	,,	M.O.T. (E.Q.D.)
Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Sturge	,,	M.O.D. (D.I. Staff)
Captain D. W. Stubbs	,,	A.A.C., Harrogate, as Major
Major C. R. A. Sumner	,,	21st Regiment
Captain A. L. W. G. Steane	,,	222 Squadron
Captain G. W. Tacey	,,	242 Squadron
Major J. T. Treglown	,,	18th Regiment
Major R. J. Tanner	,,	Telecommunications Br. Tech. Group, R.E.M.E.
Captain J. R. Turpin	,,	18th Regiment as Major
Captain M. J. P. Vann	,,	28th Regiment
Major G. C. Verdon	,,	4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant M. J. Young	,,	A.A.C., Harrogate

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.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.II W. L. Marchant	To	38 Cadet Training Team
W.O.II P. Smith	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) G. E. Rawlins	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II L. J. H. Merry	,,	Sheffield University O.T.C.
W.O.II D. Chambers	,,	39th Regiment (V)
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. S. W. Briggs	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II P. W. V. Hammond	,,	36th Regiment (V)
W.O.II R. C. Shaw	,,	4th Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) K. French	,,	3rd Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II R. B. Coleman	,,	14th Regiment
W.O.II J. A. Morris	,,	14th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) C. Heaps	,,	227 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) T. M. Stoddart	,,	24th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. H. Cordey	,,	260 Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. A. Ewer	,,	H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong
Staff Sergeant R. L. Suett	,,	H.Q., BR Troops, Malta
Staff Sergeant W. Skimming	,,	14th Signal Regiment
Stff Sergeant (F. of S.) C. B. Bumphrey	,,	Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) H. J. Paul	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. N. Howie	,,	18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) B. Jepson	,,	608 Troop
Staff Sergeant H. Birtles	,,	55 Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. Botham	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. J. M. Peters	,,	1st Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. Davies	,,	223 Squadron
Seregant A. W. Gillham	,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant J. Rowdon	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant L. G. Drayton	,,	240 Squadron
Sergeant F. C. Kavanagh	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant C. T. Hall	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant J. W. McCormack	,,	262 Squadron
Sergeant P. D. Carre	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant V. B. Selby	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant P. Gorman	,,	2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant L. G. P. Collie	,,	1st Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. T. I. Riddy	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant A. J. Whydell	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant A. D. Hewett	,,	Royal Signals Records
A/Sergeant F. M. Dempster	,,	H.Q., 3rd Signal Group
A/Sergeant D. J. Dove	,,	H.Q., 4th Signal Group
Sergeant L. A. Peake	,,	28th Regiment
Sergeant S. M. Fowler	,,	24th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. A. Leech	,,	13th Regiment
A/Sergeant W. H. Bates	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant E. E. Jones	,,	13th Regiment
Sergeant P. Thornborough	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant L. C. Kybert	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant R. Freeman	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant C. Costigan	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant P. G. Alford	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant G. F. Hutton	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant D. F. H. Melhuish	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Moody	,,	Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
SergeantR. Walker	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant J. Morrissey	,,	20th Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant C. H. Davidson	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant T. P. D. Roberts	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Warren	,,	21st Regiment
A/Sergeant R. G. Graham	,,	24th Regiment
A/Sergeant V. D. Jinks	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant G. A. M. Chapman	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Lee	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant T. Tanner	,,	255 Squadron
Sergeant A. Morpeth	,,	1st Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Ridley	,,	2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Lynch	,,	2nd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. S. Gledhill	,,	4th Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. Ward	,,	4th Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. F. Jones	,,	3rd Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. E. Hambleton	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant L. W. D. Atherton	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Lamerton	,,	30th Regiment
A/Sergeant P. J. Skinner	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant D. R. E. Taylor	,,	30th Regiment, 4 Squadron
Sergeant T. Keating	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant A. Turner	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant T. J. Friend	,,	3 Cadet Training Team
Sergeant T. G. Fisher	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant R. E. Crossland	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant A. C. Robertshaw	,,	31st Regiment
A/Sergeant P. F. Taylor	,,	71st Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant J. W. Groves	,,	224 Squadron

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November, 1969:

	£	s.	d.
Mayor of Blandford (through Commander, H.Q. Blandford Camp)	5	5	0
Captain E. J. Brooks	3	0	0
F. E. Foulds, Esq.	2	2	0
Major R. F. C. Ashford	2	0	0
F. G. Key, Esq.	1	6	0
G. A. J. Feakes, Esq. (Christmas Fund)	1	1	0
F. Veness, Esq., M.B.E. (Christmas Fund)	1	0	0
Major M.Mc G. Simmonds	16	0	0
C. A. W Freeman, Esq.	16	0	0
G. B. Hollings, Esq.	15	0	0
Various small donations	2	18	6
Total ...	£20	19	6

Expenditure during November, 1969 ... £955 13 10

Out in front on all fronts

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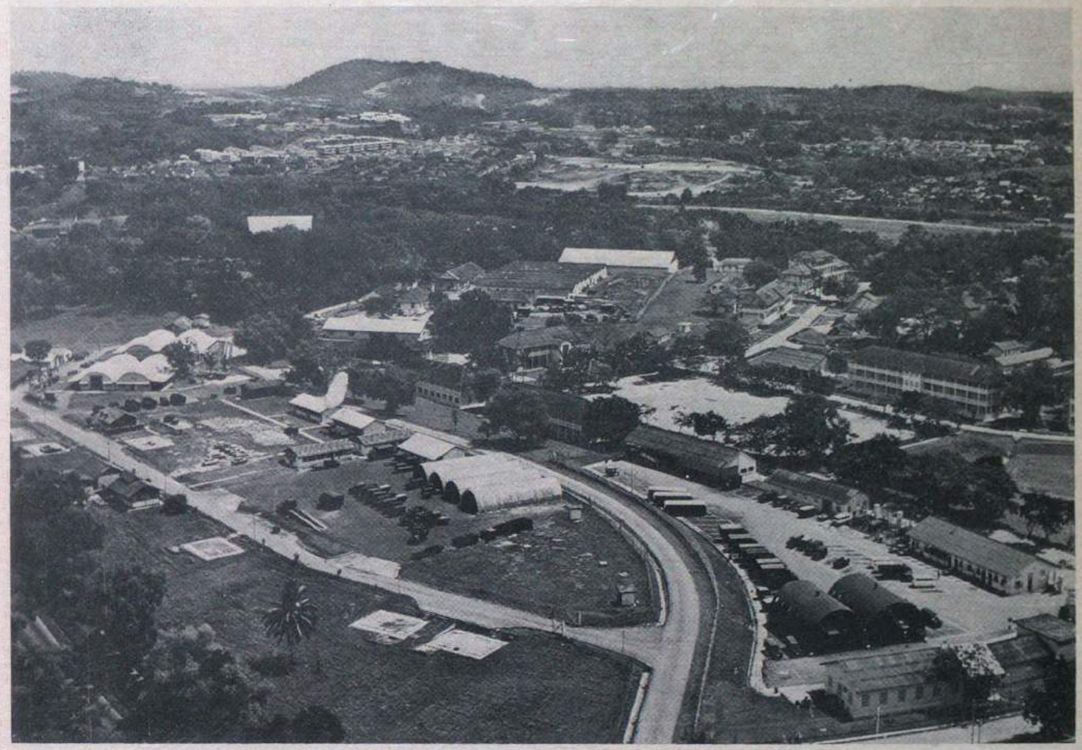
REFLECTIONS ON THE SIGNAL TRAINING CENTRE, FAR EAST

Submitted by 18th Signal Regiment



HOME OF SIGNALS IN THE FAR EAST

Originally located at Ayer Rajah camp (just off the bottom of the photograph) the Signal Training Centre F.E. moved to Calcutta Camp on the left of the road running up from the centre of the photograph. It's final home was Mektilla Barracks on the right of the same road. Calcutta Camp is now occupied by 249 Signal Squadron with 18th Signal Regiment adjacent — quite a Corps stronghold

Delving back into history

On 3rd October a military parade took place on the square of Princess Mary Barracks, Dover Road, Singapore. The occasion was a sad, albeit a proud one, as it was the disbandment parade for the Signal Training Centre, FARELF, 3 Squadron, 18th Signal Regiment.

S.T.C. (F.E.), as it was known for years, existed for a generation, and delving into its past—a pleasurable occupation—it is obvious that it has always given a good account of itself. There is a dearth of recorded information, but here in Singapore we are blessed with long-serving, locally enlisted personnel. People like **Sergeant Kadir,** who can recall the days in 1948 when the unit was known as 'C' Squadron, Singapore District Signal Regiment. Another link with the earlier days is **Staff Sergeant Mahmood Ghani.** He started his career with the Squadron in October, 1949, and has served continuously with the Regiment ever since.

In those days the Squadron, commanded by **Major Padget,** Royal Signals, was located at Yio Chu Kang village. It was actually a tented camp situated on a rubber estate—a far cry from the superb barracks of today—and had a strength of 60-70 all ranks. As far as is known it was here for the first time that locally enlisted men were taught a trade. The first trade attempted was Lineman, and some of the first tradesmen are still around today, over 20 years later. They are excellent tradesmen and a credit to the Squadron. Before that local enlistments from many races went from their Kampongs to one of the three basic training centres. After 16 weeks of recruit training they were posted to units, where they gave loyal service as general duty men.

In 1949, 'C' Squadron took over Ayer Rajah Camp from an Indian Army unit. The camp, a tented one, was located off what was then a track, but is now Dover Road, the home of 18th Signal Regiment. Here, from a modest beginning, was created the Signal Training Squadron Far East, a mini Catterick of the East. In 1952 the Squadron made the short move to Calcutta Camp, where the accommodation was still primitive to say the least. The main camp area was rebuilt by 1957/58 and better facilities were provided. This enabled the Squadron to start upgrading training for B.O.R. and Gurkha technicians, who previously had to return to U.K. for it.

In 1951/52 the Squadron was commanded by **Major P. A. Toombs,** Royal Signals, now retired. By this time the strength had increased considerably and training included basic trades of: Drivers, Lineman, Operators Wireless and Line, Radio Technicians, Technical Storemen, and Drill and Duties courses.

It was a busy time, a time of rapid turnover of National Servicemen. Catterick, too, was busy and at some time, although exactly when it not clear, the Squadron took on the overflow of basic trade training from Catterick. This must have been a challenging period and one can imagine the problems gener-

ated by young soldiers being trained so far from home. In 1952 **Major R. G. Blackman** assumed command. He is now Deputy Director of Public Relations in the M.O.D. He writes of this as his happiest time in the Army, of the improvisations and struggles to maintain old training equipment and of the ever-pressing need to adjust for the changing manpower and trade structure. During this time a training radio link to Kuala Lumpur was established, which was at times pressed into service for live traffic during the emergency. Also at this time **S.Q.M.S. Latimer** and **Sergeant Newton** received the B.E.M. for their efforts. In 1955-56 **Major M. S. Hancock** was in command; he is now Chief of Staff, H.Q. FARELF.

The Squadron has always been either part of, or associated with, 18th Signal Regiment, which was previously called Singapore District Signal Regiment. In 1954, the Squadron became known as the Signal Training Centre Far East. In June, 1963, it was redesignated 263 Signal Squadron (Training) and in November, 1965, was reorganised as the fourth Squadron of 18th Signal Regiment. From then on it was designated 3 Squadron (S.T.C. FARELF). Up until 1957 the Squadron was under direct operational control of G.H.Q. FARELF. In 1957 it came under C.R. Signals, Singapore Base District. At the same time, however, H.Q. Signal Training Brigade, Catterick, has always taken a great interest in the Squadron and has been known to refer to the O.C. as "our man in the Far East."

Prominent in many activities

It is tempting, when reflecting on the past, to think only in terms of numbers of students, courses run and achievements at the job on hand. However, the Squadron can also be proud of its record in other fields of activity, as can be seen by browsing through old copies of 'Signal.' This excellent weekly news of 10th Signal Regiment was inaugurated in 1961 by the present C.S.O., **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** who then commanded the Regiment. The Squadron constantly appears in the columns of sporting success. It had, too, its gladiators, such people as **Major J. O. S. Prince,** a one-time Army rugby full-back, and in more recent times **Staff Sergeant Tony Pfeiffer,** the wizard of the boxing ring. The Squadron also had two of the Corps' better sailors in **Major J. E. Denton** and **Major L. D. Line,** as its O.C. Again recently, a good musician in **Sergeant R. Starling,** without whom the organ of the fine Garrison Church of St. John's would remain silent.

Adventure training was another highlight in Squadron life and this again is reflected in 'Signal,' particularly in 1964. There are some good-quality articles depicting the various adventures. **Staff Sergeant Shahibullah** led several parties which went by motor cycle and boat to Pulau Perhentian.

This island is 12 miles off North Malaya across the South China Sea. On another occasion a party from the Squadron climbed the 4,187 feet Mount Ophir in North Johore. There is also a thrilling account of a rafting party navigating their way some 126 miles from Gua Musang in Kelantan to Kota Bahru.

The Squadron was, for some years, renowned for its outstanding successes in both shooting and driving. In 1963 it 'just about swept the board' in the British Army Motoring Association championships of Singapore. In 1964 the Squadron won nearly all the trophies, including the local 'Falling Plate Invitation,' at the Royal Signals shooting meeting.

Another achievement, in a different field, was largely due to the efforts of **W.O.II (F. of S.) Hazel,** now **Major Hazel.** In 1957, thanks to him, the Squadron was the first station in Singapore to monitor the original 'Sputnik' signals, which were recorded and later broadcast on Radio Singapore.

A big challenge

Commitments change, charters change, and challenges of one kind are changed for challenges of another kind. In 1968, the big challenge was the conversion of technicians. There was a deadline to convert radio technicians, heavy and light, to technicians, radio; radio relay technicians and line technicians to technicians, radio relay; electrical technicians and telegraph technicians to technicians, terminal equipment.

The task was a formidable one, but practically every Royal Signals technician in the Far East, over 150 in all, attended, and for the most part passed the conversion course. Each course was addressed at the beginning and end by C.R. Signals, **Colonel C. E. Tonry, O.B.E.,** who took a tremendous interest in the whole project. The very fine team of keen instructors, led by **W.O.II (F. of S.) D. Harvey,** can be justly proud of a magnificent achievement, for which he was awarded the B.E.M.

The programme for 1969 and the planning for the closure were finalised by the then C.O. of the Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. G. Anderson.** The commitments up to March, 1970, were now to be completed by December, 1969, and, if humanly possible, no courses were to be cancelled. In actual fact, four additional courses were undertaken, and few men in the Far East remain unqualified through inability to get on an upgrading course.

Final parade

To return to the parade of 3rd October. In the first place the weather was good, and the rain, which had been threatening since early morning, held off. True, it was hot, but there was a gentle breeze throughout. 18th Signal Regiment, watched by many ladies of the Regiment, marched on to Princess Mary square to the stirring sounds of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment Band. Taking up the centre position, 3 Squadron (STC (FE)) paraded 123 men and women from 16 different units—including a sergeant from Ceylon.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** commanded the parade, and an old friend of STC, **Colonel C. E. Tonry, O.B.E.,** took the salute. **Colonel Tonry,** with his many associations with the Squadron, certainly knew 95 per cent of the Cadre, if not of the entire Regiment on parade.

After the advance in review order, eight members of the Regiment, including three past members of the Squadron—**Captain Mansur Bin Mohd Desa,** Royal Signals, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Othman Tasi** and **Sergeant P. Nichols,** were presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

At the march-off, the band played and the Regiment gave a general salute. The Squadron, commanded by **Major J. G. Fleming,** dug their heels in, held their heads high and marched off in fine style up the slope from Princess Mary Square, for the last time.

A few days before the parade, the C.O. addressed the management side of the Regiment. With no particular reference to the Squadron, he said: "The period of run-down should not be one of gloom and despondency, but of pride and professionalism." The Squadron had obviously listened to these words of wisdom. It was a good parade, which brought forth the following:

To the C.O., from **Colonel C. E. Tonry, O.B.E.:**

"I would like to congratulate you, your officers, W.O.s, N.C.O.s and soldiers for the very high standard of turnout and drill demonstrated at the parade this morning. It is probably the last parade of many I have seen on that square, and certainly qualifies as the best. I know, from my own experience, how difficult it is to weld together soldiers from many different nationalities and units, and for that reason alone, the standard displayed by No. 3 Squadron was an outstanding achievement. As they marched off, one could not help thinking of the many, many hundreds of similar soldiers who have passed through the STC (FE) during its existence."

Over 10,000

Colonel Tonry mentions hundreds; in actual fact, the nominal roll of all those connected with the Squadron since its inception exceeds ten thousand. (See figures for 1963-1969 at end). Many of its old associates have gone on to greater things, and a selected list of them would read like a 'Burkes Peerage' of the Royal Corps of Signals.'

The Squadron officially disbanded on 1st October, 1969. However, there are still 120 students hard at work. The last of the operator, linemen, E.D., clerk tech and potential F. of S. courses are due to end in December, 1969. Soon the sounds of the teleprinters and morse keys will give way to the noise of the armoured cars of the Queen's Own Hussars, who are to occupy Meiktila Barracks—the last home of STC (FE).

Squadron Commanders since 1951

1951, **Major P. A. Toombs** (now retired Major); 1952, **Major R. G. Blackman** (now retired Major); 1955, **Major M. S. Hancock** (now Major-General); 1956, **Major J. L. Purdon** (now Lieutenant-Colonel); 1959, **Major L. D. Line** (now retired Lieutenant-Colonel); 1969, **Major B. H. Parsonage** (now retired Major); 1962, **Major J. B. Prince** (now retired Major); 1963, **Major J. E. Denton** (now Major); 1964, **Major J. Harwood** (now Major); 1965, **Major G. M. Allen** (now retired Major); 1966, **Major D. Lycett-Gregson** (now Major); and 1968, **Major J. G. Fleming** (now Major).

NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN STC (FARELF) FROM 1963 TO 1969 (DEC.)

Type of Trade	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Technicians	51	51	77	81	81	257	57
Radio Operators	19	25	56	54	59	20	32
Comcen Operators ...	22	101	102	76	91	61	43
Telegraph Operators ...	45	74	48	63	57	31	48
Switchboard Operators ...	23	—	21	19	4	16	21
Teleprinter Ops.	5	8	5	25	20	—	—
Pre Y. of S.	—	—	—	10	21	6	2
Linemen	74	87	114	182	47	67	35
Clerk Technicians ...	7	19	12	21	20	14	27
Drivers	27	15	—	55	1	5	5
M.P.T.	66	58	45	154	237	131	67
Electrician Drivers ...	7	15	9	16	16	13	11
Technical Storemen ...	33	17	26	18	4	21	—
Staff Sergeants Course ...	12	34	25	21	—	11	23
Staff Operators	1	2	9	—	—	—	—
Draughtsmen	2	2	7	3	6	—	4
D11	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Radio Procedure	—	—	9	—	—	—	—
Radio Relayman	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Pre F. of S.	—	6	—	1	12	11	30
Total	394	519	565	804	676	664	405

Grand Ttotal: 4,027

Three old comrades who always find a way . . .

. . . to meet somewhere, or somehow, at least once a year

(left to right):

Major A. (Q.M.) ('Darkie') Penfold (Retd.), 1915-1948, R.E. Signals and Royal Signals. Served: France, Salonika, Turkey, India, Germany, Maresfield, Crowborough, Bulford, Aldershot, Edinburgh, Scarborough, and Kirkburton. Introduced tent-pegging to the Corps at home and overseas.

Ex-R.S.M. S. A. ('Romany') Rose, M.S.M., 1915-1946, Royal Signals from 1921-1946. Served: France, India, Palestine, Egypt, Maresfield, Crowborough, Bulford, Aldershot, Scarborough and Kirkburton.

Ex-Signalman W. ('Nobbie') Clarke, 1919- 1925, then 1939-1940, R.E. Signals and Royal Signals. Served: Bedford, Aldershot, Maresfield, Crowborough, Turkey and France.

These three comrades correspond regularly. One lives in Hayes, Middlesex, one in Weybridge, Surrey and **ex-R.S.M. Rose** is Chairman of the Huddersfield Branch of the Association. But whatever the distance or the circumstances, they always manage to meet together at least once a year. The occasion when this photograph was taken was at the wedding reception of **ex-Signalman Clark's** daughter, held at the British Legion Club, Hayes.

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The Silent World

By Lieutenant David Moir, of 18th Signal Regiment

The author of this article, Lieutenant David Moir, coming out of the water after making one of his many dives

TO most people, the idea of 'Scuba' Diving is frightening, they are prepared to make occasional brave stabs at pieces of coral but are not prepared to stay below the surface for long. Last March I decided to join FARELF Sub-Aqua Club and to learn some of nature's submarine secrets.

A lot to be learnt

As I soon found out, learning to 'Scuba' dive is not just a matter of putting on an aqualung and jumping into the sea; one has to learn to snorkel correctly and attend a series of lectures on diving theory and safety. After two weeks of finning up and down the training pool, I was allowed to progress to the aqualung. The ability to lie on the bottom of the swimming pool and breath normally gives one a tremendous feeling of independence. Three more weeks of pool training and finally I was ready to take the plunge and dive in the open sea for the first time.

I remember little of the sampan journey to the diving area except that my head was spinning with thoughts of all the lectures and lessons of the past six weeks. Eventually we reached the diving site and I was told to get ready to dive. Everything seemed to come easily now as I prepared myself; life-jacket, fins, aqualung, mask and snorkel. After turning my air on I checked my demand valve and then jumped into the sea. The dive assembled beside the boat and after a final check we began our descent. The noise of people on the boat stopped as we floated almost weightlessly towards the seabed, and all that could be heard was the air bubbling from our aqualungs.

The needle on my depth gauge rose slowly, 10-20-30-40-50 feet; stop; we were on the sea-bed. The dive leader led us across the sandy sea-bed in a square pattern looking for shells. After twenty minutes in this 'Silent world' we made our ascent back to the boat. My first dive was over.

Running out of air — a tense moment

Probably the biggest worry that a diver has is running out of air on the sea-bed, and I experienced this on my second dive. We were examining a length of coral reef about fifty feet down, when suddenly I had great difficulty in breathing. It was rather like trying to suck juice out of a dried-up orange, there was no air in my aqualung. I looked around for my fellow divers but couldn't see them so I had to make a 'free ascent' without air. I remembered all the lessons of previous weeks and as I finned slowly upwards blowing out, I kept repeating "Don't panic . . . Don't panic." At last I reached the surface, my ordeal was over; the whole incident had lasted less than 40 seconds but it seemed a lifetime.

My fellow divers, realising that something was wrong, were already on the surface waiting for me and slowly we made our way back to the boat. My first day's diving was over.

Come and join us

Since that day almost six months ago I have completed over one hundred dives and am now a B.S.A.C. 2nd Class diver. There are now six other members of the Regiment who have taken up 'Scuba' diving: **Lance-Corporal Les Eagles** (B.S.A.C. 3rd Class), **Staff Sergeant Pete Thornber, Sergeant Ray Cox** and **Craftsman John Young** (L.A.D., R.E.M.E.), **Lieutenants Pat MacCulloch** and **John Young** and **Lance-Corporal Pete White.** All are active divers and we hope that it won't be long before all are qualified as 3rd Class divers.

At present it is monsoon time so we are unable to run any expeditions; we are using the break to train new divers and to improve our own diving technique. We extend an invitation to anyone coming to Singapore to come and join us and explore the 'Silent world.'

Gurkhas at Sea

The story of an Army Communicator with the Senior Service is written for us by Second-Lieutenant John D. Stokoe of 48 Gurkha Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (246 Gurkha Sqn.), B.F.P.O. 1.

ON 26th November, 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong began its major exercise of the year, Exercise 'Seahorse.' Playing a vital role on the exercise was the L.P.D., H.M.S. *Fearless*.

My first view of H.M.S. *Fearless* was a of a cavernous hold, not unlike the entrance to Darlington bus station. At the time I was standing in a L.V.C.P. (small, platoon-sized landing-craft) trying to peer over the ramp, and at the same time avoid getting covered in spray. With me was **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung,** Gurkha Signals, also, unsuccessfully, trying to do the same thing.

Sprawled in various attitudes of misery

We had made a fairly rough crossing from the Kowloon side of the harbour, with the result that the Gurkha Signals detachment with us, normally very lively and cheerful, were sprawled in various attitudes of misery on the floor of the L.C.V.P. Needless to say, once safely on board the unmoving H.M.S. *Fearless*, spirits soon picked up.

The ship wasn't due to sail until later in the day, so we had plenty of time to wander around, and generally get ourselves orientated. The everyday shipboard locations, such as ward-room, messdecks, cabins, etc., were quite easily found, but the most important of all required much hard work and diligence to discover. The elusive 'heads' were so well hidden that two full days after we had sailed a certain Gurkha Officer came to me with a very troubled expression on his face and asked, in a strained voice, "Did I know where the heads were?" He went away a much relieved and happy man.

Continually moving in either squares or circles

During the course of the exercise I was to act as Battalion Signal Officer for 2/7th (DEO) Gurkha Rifles, but I found myself just as much involved with the umpire communications. As part of the latter, a C41 link was provided from the ship at sea to Exercise Control, allowing telephone access for the Chief Umpires of land forces and seaborne forces respectively. The C41 and CST 1 + 4 No. 3 were installed in a deck housing on the starboard gun deck (I think that's the correct name, if not apologies to all concerned). It was manned by a three-man crew, under **Corporal Lalitsing Chhetri.** Much credit to him in that for at least the initial three days of the exercise his two crew members were sprawled on the deck, feeling very ill and undergoing the most remarkable colour changes. It was during this period that the ship was continually moving, either in squares or circles, so one can imagine the problems encountered in keeping the yagi antennae properly aligned, with two not really 'with it' crew members to help.

When units of the embarked force started going ashore for night operations, voices from above decreed that an RRB should be established ashore, ready for instant forward communication. So a three-man A41 RRB crew duly climbed into a Wessex helicopter, which duly took off, and landed the RRB crew who were swiftly, and not surprisingly, caught. At this point the ship was steaming in such an area that a very large mountain existed between it and the proposed operational area. What else to do but move the ship! A word with the captain and we did move—to an anchorage that was a V.H.F. communicator's Utopia, from anywhere to anywhere without a single RRB to worry about, every net as solid as a rock. From then on, the Battalion command net was no problem at all, so I turned my attentions to the umpire side.

. . . having a little trouble with the coax feeder

We were having a little trouble with the coax feeder to the receiver antenna, and one afternoon, about half-way through the exercise, it decided to give up the ghost. With this sudden breakdown, levels went haywire and affected our four remote telephones, all of which were marked—Umpire. First one started ringing, then another, and so on, until all four were ringing. The Umpire didn't realise quite what had happened and tried answering first one, then another, until eventually he was holding all four handsets, screaming his callsign into each one in turn. He was soon put in the picture, but after that little incident he refused point blank to have anything to do with Alexander Graham Bell again.

Life on board wasn't all work, though, not by any means. **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung** and I worked a Naval Shift Systems, so we each had a spell away from the confines of the operations room. At night the ship was darkened and it was very pleasant to stroll about in the cool air and think of signallers signalling on windy hill tops.

Dantes Purgatory

The first evening at sea I wandered aft to have a look at the men's accommodation. We had over 900 Gurkhas on board and they were all accommodated on the vehicle and tank decks. The sight I saw, looking down the ramp from the flight deck, I shall not forget for a long time to come. The lower decks were bathed in red light and covered with rows of sleeping Gurkhas. It was like an extract from Dantes Purgatory. During the course of the exercise I had two visitors to entertain and each expressed the same comment when shown this particularly interesting spectacle.

To help occupy the long, sun-filled hours when no operations were in progress I would sit on the guns deck (apologies again) near the radio relay cabin, and tune my way through the A41 in the hope of intercepting dushman (enemy) frequencies. I obtained one or two that didn't really mean much, but one I did find was a God-send. It was the frequency of a particular chain of O.P.s watching movements to and from the ship.

They remained on this frequency for the rest of the exercise and provided many an interesting couple of hours' entertainment once the A41 had been remoted to a loudspeaker in the operations room. Unbeknown to us, however, not 50 feet above a R.M. Sergeant and Corporal were busily transmitting all our actions to the enemy. Check mate?

The big headaches

One of the biggest headaches arising from communication on board was the problem of mutual interference. Many of the antennas were close together and a change in frequency meant a juggling of antennas until the best permutation was found. Here the ship's signal troop, commanded by **Captain Rolo Rumford,** Royal Signals, came into its own. They were forever changing antennas and checking likely interference areas. One typical example of such interference occurred whilst listening on an enemy frequency on the remote A41. One could also hear the battalion command net, the Umpire net and the Air Co-ordination net. Perm any one from three?

This was also the cry when operating the radio pressel switch from the control consoles in the operations room.

There were three ways:

A floor-mounted switch.
A switch on the panel.
A switch on the headset breastplate.

One rather harassed operations officer, who could not quite grasp the fact that it was only essential to press one, got himself into rather sticky situations by attempting to press one with his foot, one with his left hand and one with the right, and take down a coded message! All this done on a revolving chair with the headset cable caught up in the revolving mechanism can make even the stoutest of men blanche!

You will notice that I haven't attempted to describe the tactics that were involved or the troop dispositions. That will no doubt be done in the official record of Exercise 'Seahorse.'

P.S. The exercise lasted six days, Ambre Solaire works and we did have a cocktail party on board!

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The Royal Military College of Science

Personalities

IT is perhaps not widely appreciated that the strength of the Royal Signals' contingent at the Royal Military College of Science is, at this moment, 62 officers.

This number is composed of three members of the Directing Staff, **Colonel R. H. Maxfield,** who is the Military Director of Studies in the Electronics and Guided Weapons Division, and **Lieutenant-Colonels P. J. Garratt** and **R. A. King** who are Directing Staff in that Division.

Of the remaining 59, 17 are students on the Army Staff Courses, 41 are young officers on Degree Courses, and one officer, **Captain A. J. Hervey,** is doing two years' research which will lead to a higher degree.

Last but not least, **W.O.II (F. of S.) MacKay,** who in addition to playing football for the College cheerfully turns his hand to anything from cabinet making to the construction of Guided Weapon Simulators, to keep the Electronics and Guided Weapons Demonstration Hall up to Earls Court standard.

Background

A brief description of the history and background of the College may be of interest to readers.

It was born of the Royal Artillery Advanced Class at Woolwich which was originally intended to teach selected Royal Artillery officers the more technical aspects of guns and gunnery. This became the Military College of Science and moved to Shrivenham after the second world war. It acquired its 'Royal' in 1953. Its role had expanded from the teaching of purely Gunner subjects, to providing a military organisation for training young officers of all Arms for External London University Degrees, and for training Technical Staff Officers for what are now termed Weapon Staff Appointments. With the evolution of the College and the changing needs of the Army, Shrivenham is now running courses for its own C.N.A.A. Degrees in Engineering and Science, which are specifically designed to meet the Army's requirements. With the change in policy for Staff training, and the requirement that all Staff Officers should have a technological background, the old T.S.O. course has ceased, and all potential Staff Officers spend a part of their course here before going on to Camberley. The length of time they spend at Shrivenham depends on their technical background, and varies from three months to 15 months.

The staff of the College is both civilian and military. The academic staff is entirely responsible for the Degree courses. They also provide considerable support to the Military Directing Staff whose primary responsibility is the running of the Army Staff Course and a number of other courses, notably the Guided Weapons course and Ammunition Technology courses. The co-operation between soldier and civilian is excellent and the result is a high standard of technical teaching. It is worth recording that in this year's London External Engineering Degree results (the last course for this examination to be run at the College) of a total of six first class honours awarded over the whole country, five came from Shrivenham.

As in all well-organised universities, Shrivenham supports a multitude of extra mural activities, and Royal Signals officers can be found taking part in all of them from acting and writing the revue through the major sports to croquet. Of 18 awards of College Colours this year half went to Royal Signals' officers.

Recent events

It was very gratifying that the Signal Officer-in-Chief was able to visit the College so early in his tour, and was able to include Commemoration Day on 21st October in his visit. He had an opportunity to look round the College and meet the Commandant and Dean. He and **Mrs. Pentreath** were entertained by the Royal Signals Officers and their wives at a cocktail party on the evening of 20th October and afterwards at dinner. It gave us great pleasure that **Mrs. Pentreath** was able to accompany the General.

12 Signal Group (V)

Successful study period held

WITH the kind permission of **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** 12 Signal Group descended from far and wide on the Training Brigade, Catterick, over the weekend of 15th/16th November to hold their two-day Study Period and annual dinner.

Over 110 officers attended the Study Period from 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) (Middlesbrough), 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) (Wanstead), and 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) (Belfast) to hear what was generally agreed to be a very stimulating series of lectures and presentations covering a wide range of subjects. The principal speakers were **Mr. Colin Jackson,** M.P., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** C.S.O. B.A.O.R., and **Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. King,** G.S.O. 1 (W) Royal Military College of Science.

The Commander, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** in his opening address, stated that 1969 had been a year of considerable progress and achievement. The recruited strength of the Group had risen steadily throughout the year from 77 to 89 per cent and it was stressed that officers must go all out to recruit to 100 per cent in 1970. Five new T. & A.V.R. Centres had been taken over and were going well. The role of each Regiment in B.A.O.R. had now been clearly defined and following on from this establishments had been rewritten and new equipment would be provided to meet the new roles.

Major-General Horsfield gave a most interesting review of communications in B.A.O.R. and **Lieutenant-Colonel King** described in some detail the Bruin system of communications.

The annual dinner was held in the Royal Signals Mess on the Saturday evening. As well as the speakers at the Study Period and **Brigadier Clarkson,** the guests included the Honorary Colonels of the three Regiments, **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L., Colonel Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., J.P.,** and **Colonel J. McCann, T.D.** The Regimental Band of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) played during the evening and the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Signals played the dinner call and the fanfare for the loyal toast.

The events of the evening highlighted how successfully the spirit of comradeship had developed between the Regiments of the Group.

Our thanks are due to **Major F. W. Leatherland** and **Major R. O. Wilson** for looking after us so well over the weekend.

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Captain A. L. Felton and Major R. W. Fawcett, T.D.

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Headquarters 4 Signal Group B.F.P.O. 40

ON 1st October C.A.F.S.O. Branch, R.A.F.G., was reorganised and redesignated H.Q. 4 Signal Group. The Group H.Q. is located in the comparative luxury of Block 13 at the Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen. We are on neutral ground under the shadow of the Marconi mast which links the present R.A.F. radio relay system with the new Starrnet radio relay system.

The responsibilities of Commander 4 Signal Group, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** include the command of 16th Signal Regiment and 21st Signal Regiment and the supervision of all the static communications used by the British Forces in Germany.

Farewell to Air Formation Signals in Germany

On 30th September 21 Air Formation Signal Regiment changed its title to 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) and thus brought to a close another chapter of service and achievement in the history of our Corps. Since 1944 the following Regiments have served the Royal Air Force in Germany:

10th Air Formation Signal Regiment
11th Air Formation Signal Regiment
12th Air Formation Signal Regiment
15th Air Formation Signal Regiment

11th Air Formation Signal Regiment moved to Europe with the 2nd Tactical Air Force soon after 'D' Day, and were followed by 12th and 15th Air Formation Signal Regiments. In 1946, 12th and 15th Air Formation Signal Regiments were absorbed into 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment. In 1954 a Squadron of 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment moved to Wahn to provide a nucleus for the re-forming of 12th Air Formation Signal Regiment. In 1955 10th Air Formation Signal Regiment was formed at Goch and in 1957 moved to Butzweilerhof just outside Cologne. In 1958 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment was disbanded and 10th Air Formation Signal Regiment was run down to Squadron strength and moved to Wildenrath. At the same time 12th Air Formation Signal Regiment moved from Wahn to Laarbruch.

In 1959 12th Air Formation Signal Regiment was redesignated 21st Signal Regiment and absorbed the remaining Squadrons of 10th and 11th Air Formation Signal Regiments which had been renumbered 220 and 221 Signal Squadrons.

The appointment of C.A.F.S.O. was established with 2nd Tactical Air Force in early 1944. At this time 2nd Tactical Air Force comprised of 93, 84 and 85 Groups, R.A.F. **Brigadier J. D. Bastin, C.B.E.,** was the first C.A.F.S.O., appointed on 7th May, 1944. In 1945 H.Q. 2nd Tactical Air Force moved on to German soil for the first time to Suchten and later to Bad Eilsen.

When hostilities ceased, Headquarters 2nd Tactical Air Force was set up as a static headquarters at Bad Eilsen and, on 15th July, 1945, was redesignated 'The British Air Force of Occupation,' but reverted to its original title in September, 1951. On 2nd April, 1952, it was renamed 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force with Headquarters still at Bad Eilsen.

In October, 1954, Headquarters 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force moved to the new Headquarters at Rheindahlen and on 1st January, 1959, was given its present title, Royal Air Force (Germany).

During the period May, 1944, to 1st October, 1969, the appointment of C.A.F.S.O. remained with H.Q. R.A.F. (G) and the following officers have held the appointment:

Brigadier D. T. Bastin, C.B.E., May, 1944, to October, 1945; **Brigadier B. S. Watkins, C.B.E.,** October, 1945, to March, 1947; **Colonel W. D. McGregor, O.B.E.,** March, 1947, to June, 1948; **Colonel R. W. Morgan, O.B.E.,** June, 1948, to May, 1949; **Colonel L. de M. Thuillier, O.B.E.,** May, 1949, to June, 1951; **Colonel T. A. R. Scott, C.B.E.,** June, 1951, to November, 1953; **Colonel H. L. Lewis, C.B.E.,** November, 1953, to April, 1956; **Colonel J. W. Gordon,** April, 1956, to April, 1958; **Colonel D. E. Harrison, O.B.E.,** April, 1958, to November, 1961; **Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. H. Swallow,** November, 1961, to February, 1964; **Colonel B. R. M. Hayles,** February, 1964, to March, 1966; and **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** June, 1966, to September, 1969.

Farewell signals

On 30th September **Air Marshall Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris,** Commander 2 A.T.A.F. and Commander-in-Chief R.A.F. (G), sent the following signal to the Signal Officer-in-Chief:

"For S.O.-in-C. from C.-in-C. Today Royal Air Force Germany says farewell to Air Formation Signals in the form in which it has given loyal and devoted service to the Command for over 25 years. The 21st Signal Regiment will continue to serve my Operational Command and its responsibilities and work will increase. I know that this Regiment and No. 4 Group Headquarters, formed mainly from my C.A.F.S.O. and his staff, will meet the new challenge and give the R.A.F. the same excellent support which countless members of the Corps have given in the past.

"I and all R.A.F. personnel in my command thank you as head of your Corps for the service which the officers and men of Royal Signals have given in the past in Air Formation Signal Units in R.A.F. Germany.

"My confidencve of success in the future is based on the knowledge that the respect and understanding that has developed in twenty-five years will continue and that the excellent relationships at all levels will be maintained."

Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., Signal Officer-in-Chief, replied to Commander-in-Chief R.A.F. (G) as follows:

"For C.-in-C. from S.O.-in-C. Much appreciate your kind message. All who have served in Air Formation Signals have enjoyed their tours. The new role of 4 Signal Group, including 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), promises greater scope, interest and challenge in support of the Royal Air Force which they are very proud to serve. All ranks Royal Signals will do their utmost as before to meet your requirements and to justify the confidence which you so kindly express."

Ristacomm

Under the Ristacomm charter, 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) will be responsible to the R.A.F. for land communications. 21st Signal Regiment are at present taking over the Static (Marconi) radio relay system which link Headquarters R.A.F. (G) and the main airfields, and later will man the German terminal of the Germany/United Kingdom Tropo-scatter link. Early next year the Harrier Signal Squadron will be formed as 4 Squadron, 21st Signal Regiment, to provide the field communications for the Harrier Squadrons based in Germany. The Squadron will be equipped with the lastest 'Bruin' equipment.

21st Signal Regiment is currently employed on a major recabling project on all R.A.F.G. airfields to meet the new communication requirements which will arise in 1970 when the new generation of R.A.F. aircraft come into service.

ROYAL SIGNALS TAKE OVER AT BRUGGEN
Air Commodore K. B. S. Willder, C.B.E., Air Officer Engineering H.Q. R.A.F.G., inspects the H Troop technicians before the ceremony, while the Commander 4th Signal Group looks on. Escorting the Air Commodore is Major K. Powell, O.C. 1 Squadron 21st Signal Regiment

Corporal B. J. Toynton R.A.F. hands over the key to the Marconi Radio Relay installation at Bruggen to Sergeant A. Bradshaw, H Troop 21st Signal Regiment

Army Apprentices College Harrogate

Canoe Club

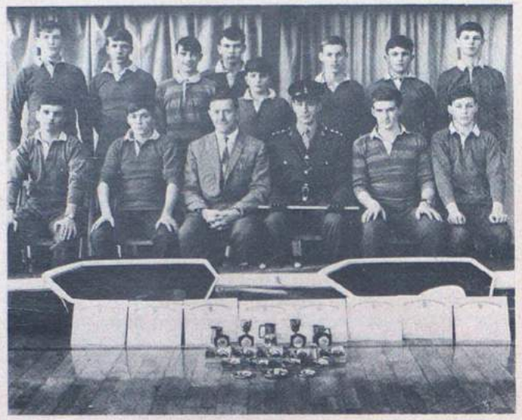
THE club has slowly, but surely, found its feet again this year. During the previous year the College lost the able services of **Captain D. Braund,** R.A.E.C., and **Mr. E. Hopper,** and an extremely well-equipped Canoe Club, which was destroyed by fire in August, 1968.

There are now about 20 regular members, who make use of a growing fleet of K2 and K1 Slalom canoes. Tradition, also, is strong in the club, since we have the youngest of the famous **Pawlow** brothers, and the small brother of **McMahon,** who won the Devizes-Westminster event about three years ago. There are several others who have relatives in the Corps.

We have had an active year, which started with the Devizes-Westminster race at Easter. We entered four crews, in order to compete for the team prize, and we are proud to say that four crews reached the finish. We were extremely pleased to have the services of **Sergeant M. Brett,** who is now on a Foreman's course at the School. He very kindly gave up some of his leave to give us his expert advice. **A/T K. Robinson** and **A/T W. Ridley** were 13th; **A/T J. Linton** and **A/T C. Tucker** were 20th; **A/T J. Smith** and **A/T K. Chapman** were 29th, and **A/T Corporal A. Robinson** and **A/T K. Pilley** were 40th. The club became the third team home and, in fact, were the first Services team to finish.

Following the Easter break, the club moved into the Slalom field. **A/T Corporal A. Robinson** represented the Corps in the Army Championships and came second in his class. He now goes on to represent the Army and the Corps, since he has left us for the Corps Canoe Club. We attended national-ranking Slalom events and increased the experience of our members. We also put a strong team into the first Northern Command Slalom Championships, held on the River Swale, near Catterick. The club did very well here, and now feel fairly well blooded.

After the summer break, we began to build up our K2 team



ARMY APPRENTICE COLLEGE CANOEISTS SHOW OFF SOME OF THEIR TROPHIES

After a year of succeses—the future looks very bright indeed

Seated, left to right: A/T K. Pilley, A/T K. P. Robinson, Mr. J. H. Johnston, Captain P. A. Arthur-Smith, Royal Signals, A/T W. Ridley, A/T J. G. Smith

Standing, left to right: A/T S. McMahon, A/T L. Linton, A/T K. W. Thurston, A/T Lance-Corporal C. J. Thomas, A/T K. Tubman, A/T Thomas Hamilton, A/T D. K. Pawlow, A/T M. L. Drake

Photo by Mr. John Stockley, civilian instructor at the College

once more. We competed in the first River Stour LD Race and did well. Then came the Northern Command Sprint and Long Distance Championships. This proved a very successful competition for the club, which was canoeing on home waters. **A/T K. Robinson** and **A/T W. Ridley** featured prominently in the events, including the LD, in which they capsized 50 yards from the finish, regained control and went on to win—the Press gave a good write-up of this. We participated in the Leven Test again and **A/T J. Smith** and **A/T S. McMahon** managed to earn bronze awards.

Our latest effort consisted of an expedition along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Eight crews started from Liverpool and covered 74 miles and 26 portages before both time and weather ran out for us.

If the present level of enthusiasm is maintained, no doubt we shall have further events and successes to record next year: certainly the future looks bright.

A successful first season for young soldier-cyclist

A/T M. F. (Calum) Watt, aged 17, has just completed a highly-successful first season in Army cycling competitions.

A/T Calum Watt—dedicated to cycling, also a very successful cross country runner

Second son of **Mr. and Mrs. George Watt,** of 42, Murrayfield, Fochabers, Moray, **Calum Watt** joined the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in September, 1968, after attending Milne's High School, Fochabers, where he gained five G.C.E. 'O' Levels. He is now in his fourth term of training as a technician of the Royal Corps of Signals.

In May, this year, he joined the College Cycling Club and, although entirely without previous cycle racing experience, quickly showed great determination and promise. His first real success came when he qualified for the finals of the Army Junior Cycling Championships by finishing second in a 10-mile road time trial at Rhyl.

In the finals, held at Chepstow (Monmouthshire) on 11th-13th July, he finished fifth in the 10-mile road time trial in

the very good time of 27 mins. 52 secs.; he improved on this performance in the 25-mile trial by coming third in 68 mins. 28 secs.

Later in the same month, on 27th July, at Ripon, he entered the 25-mile road time trial in the Inter-Services and Northern Command Championships; in this, although racing against adult as well as junior soldiers, he finished eighth overall and first in Northern Command, completing the course in 67 mins. 20 secs. On 2nd August, at Cambridge, he finished 17th in the Inter-Services 10-mile road time trial, again against adults, with a time of 25 mins. 54 secs.

On 5th October, in a 30-mile road time trial under the auspices of the Pennine Cycling Club, he created a new Army Junior Record with a time of 83 mins. 21 secs. (This is still in process of ratification).

As a gauge of **A/T. Watt's** performance over the whole season, he is placed fifth in the Combined Services' Cycling Association's Best All-Rounders' Competition, having averaged 22.54 m.p.h. in 10, 25 and 30-mile road time trials.

In the Army Junior Roller Championships, held at Arborfield (Berkshire) on 8th November, he was placed fourth in the 1 km. event, despite having to ride twice owing to a mishap to the timekeeper's watch.

Apart from his prowess in, and dedication to, his new sport of cycling, **Calum Watt** is also an automatic choice for the very successful cross-country running team of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 46

Exercise 'Small Pack'

EARLY in 1969 the annual forecast of events showed an exercise called 'Small Pack' in November, with an anotation—Annual F.F.R. Inspection in the Field. Everyone said impossible!

However, with the usual 2 Div. Signals' foresight and planning, preparations began immediately after the Summer Squadron and Adventure Training camps.

The exercise began at 06.00 hours on Tuesday, 18th November, when the 'Quick train' alert was sounded. Amidst feverish activity the Recce and Line Parties were soon loaded and leaving camp. Later that night the Regiment moved out in two long convoys. These were headed by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Sturge,** and O.C. 3 Squadron, **Major Colin Bunce,** and 'tail-end-Charlie' was the Adjutant, **Captain T. I. M. Waugh.** The reader can imagine how complicated the movement plan was when it involved some 40,000-plus soldiers of 1 (BR) Corps with all their thousands of tanks, A.P.C.s and wheels criss-crossing their way from barracks to exercise locations in Westphalia. We seemed to go round in ever-decreasing circles.

2 Div. Signals achieved the impossible by not only being checked in full C.W. kit for the F.F.R. inspection but also communicated with all systems 'Go' throughout. Comcen 'Foxtrot' were for once acclaimed to be primary Comcen and bore the brunt of 1 Squadron's inspection. Rumour has it that even **Second-Lieutenant Tony Sugdon** spent a little time in Comcen Command. The inspection went well until an over-confident Staff Officer soaked himself with the contents of an 'empty' water bottle.

Comcen 'Echo' suffered from natural tree blow down and until told to go home were quite happy to remain cut off from the world. **Corporal John Ledger's** C50 in particular was badly trapped, and but for **Sergeant Alex Johnstone's** athletic feats would still be there.

'Papa' Group, under **Major Bob Savage, Captain Adam Rassim,** and AI Troop, **Lieutenant Graham Litchfield,** fielded the operational H.Q. for the staff in the village of Retzen.

'Echelon,' under **Captain (Q.M.) Stuart Dunlop,** were co-located with 'Oscar' Group, with **Second-Lieutenant David Sharpe,** and AII Troop, **Lieutenant Phil Cooper.** This was a powerful Regimental Grouping under the Second-in-Command, **Major John Clapp,** and included an unusually strong administration team. It was a delight to have the Paymaster, **Captain David Price,** and his pay clerks, **R.Q.M.S. Jim Bridges, Staffords,** with most of the Q.M. Gen's men and the Orderly Room staff, under **O.R.Q.M.S. Roy Fairhurst,** in the field. Special mention must be made of that 'blinking' obvious ammo truck, under **R.Q.M.S. Danny Hughes,** driven by **Driver Jim Regan,** R.C.T., and escorted by **Signalman Ken Kearns.** What a pity they had to leave the exercise so early.

Exercise 'Small Pack' struck us all in 1 (BR) Corps in one way or another, and for driver **Corporal George Cage,** 3 Squadron, it was a traumatic experience—he relates:

"Whilst on the exercise of the year, the dreaded 'Small Pack,' I was 'scrimmed up' with 'Oscar' Group in a wood near Retzen. As we faced the elements that nature threw at us in the way of rain and gale-force winds, most of us were taking cover in our vehicles. Unluckily for me I was in my cab. I say hiding, others, alright I'll admit it, say I was skiving, when it so happened that a certain 80-foot beech tree decided to part company with its roots and land on my roof! My past life flashed before my eyes, as I tangled with the beech branches now protruding into my cab through its now non-existent windows."

He was last seen, lucky fellow that he was, scratching his head with an FMT 3 (Rev) muttering something that his troop commander will never believe that "a tree jumped out on me!"

The C.R.A., **Brigadier W. D. Mangham,** inspecting officer, was obviously pleased because he said:

"I much enjoyed the interesting tour of inspection and would like to say how impressed I was with everything I saw. To be able to produce 99.5% of your vehicles in the field at any one time for an exercise is a fantastically good performance."

Farewell to popular Commanding Officer

On Wednesday, 19th November, the Warrant Officers, Sergeants and their ladies gave a farewell dinner/dance to **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. A. J. Sturge.**

A mammoth task of seating 126 persons in the Mess was very efficiently mastered by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Colin Binks,** with enough pairs of willing hands, including the Civilian Mess staff, who are more than experienced at a quick change of scenery.

Dinner was served at 20.30 hours and an excellent fare was laid by **W.O.II Ron Rennoldson,** assisted by **Sergeant Jim Squires** and **Sergeant John Evans.** During dinner the band of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards played a fine selection of musical scores, culminating in 'Beyond Dull Care."

The R.S.M., **Brian Cleaver,** on behalf of the Mess, presented **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Sturge** with a large wooden wall clock, which we all hope will remind them of their tour with the 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Sturge** then presented the Mess with a silver tray, which will have a place of honour in the Mess.

Dancing then followed, and the party finally ended in the early hours of the morning, the stalwarts had breakfast at the normal time, but in Mess kit, and for the remainder of the day the rather faded appearance of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants will take time to forget.

The Regiment wish **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. A. J. Sturge** and their family success and happiness for the future.

FAREWELL TO COLONEL AND MRS STURGE

The R.S.M., W.O.I Brian Cleaver of 2 Divisional Signal Regiment and members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess toast a farewell to Colonel and Mrs. Sturge

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio shown in manpack role.

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

The B.20 is a very versatile all solid-state equipment. It can be used as a manpack or installed in vehicles and light aircraft.

The B.20 HF SSB Station Radio, which has an RF output of 30W p.e.p., represents an entirely new design concept. The transmitter-receiver weighs only 10 lb (4.5 kg), and a lightweight station including a 24W/h battery weighs only 15 lb (6.8 kg). The B.20 uses a fully synthesized frequency control system developed by Plessey specially for this equipment, and which provides 280,000 channels on the frequency range 2–29.99 MHz. SSB is the main mode of communication, but a.m. and c.w. facilities are also provided.

The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

The Plessey Company won the Queen's Award to Industry 1969 for the export achievements of its Electronics Group.

For further information and illustrated literature, please contact The Sales Manager, Defence Unit.

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

EXERCISE 'Autumn Leaf' proved a very interesting exercise for us. For some time now all of our exercises had been in the Airportable J.F.H.Q. role where, though very mobile to our destination, once there, and the R.A.F. Air Support Command 'planes have gone, we were a bit big and had not enough transport to be in any sense tactically mobile. 'Autumn Leaf' exercised us in a purely Divisional role and it was amazing just how quickly and easily one slipped back into the old skills and drills of movement and camouflage. It worked out to five moves in five days, including a night move, and we were pretty satisfied that, though we have some lessons to hoist in, we have the ability to fit in with the full-scale conventional role in Europe, or anywhere else for that matter.

"Bang, you're dead!"

The exercise produced the usual funny situations, such as **Captain Keeley,** the O.C. L.A.D., who having had his lunch, straight compo incidentally, was told by **Major Reed,** "Didn't you know you were to lunch with the G.O.C.?" Whereupon **Captain Keeley** nobly sat down with the aristocracy and ate a second lunch. Then there was **Captain Finnister,** the Traffic Officer, who was walking through the woods to the Comhead when a delightful old lady, out exercising her dog, crept up behind him, stuck her umbrella in his back and said, "Bang, you're dead!" And he nearly was, of fright. But of course the one that really made everybody's day was when **Staff Sergeant 'Tarka' Johnson,** our M.T. Troop Staff Sergeant, took the wrong turning into the last location and got bogged down, the only person to do so. His protestations about wrong signs, wrong grid references, acts of God, etc., have been summarily dismissed.

Spreading its wings

8 (N. Western) Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron has spread its wings and departed from the nest. They had a busy time getting stores sorted out, men slotted in and all the other things that a new unit has to do, but they managed it all very well and still had time to help us out in sport and social life before moving out to Chester to marry up with their Brigade H.Q. We wish **Major Colman** and his Squadron all the best of good fortune in the future and hope they will always remember the mother Regiment with affection. And anyone who can see a chance for a quick crack there is too late.

Portrait of the R.S.M.—at five bob a go

The Wives' Club has been pretty active of late, what with doing the decor for the Hallowe'en dance, having their usual meetings and getting in first with their Christmas fair. This proved a great draw and made bags of money, which was the main idea. **Mrs. Bohannan,** the C.O.'s wife, who is a bit of an artist, did lightning sketches at 5/- a go. The R.S.M., whom she depicted as a lean, cadaverous figure, was heard to mutter darkly some remarks about it being a caricature, especially when he saw **Major Reed's** portrait making him look like a latter-day Rupert Brooke.

The Regimental soccer team had a good win against the School of Artillery whom they beat 2-1. This was their first and so far their only win. The rugby and hockey teams have not gone so far as to say, "Don't write about us," but they have very little in the way of success to report so we shall draw a veil.

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

"VARIETY is the spice of life." Perhaps it is because of the variety that the term of 'Happy Herford' is in regular use these days! November was a full month with an abundance of work for both 'Chiefs' and 'Indians.' Some of our activities are described below and, if to these are added the normal day-to-day requirements of a B.A.O.R. integrated Regiment, there is a very good reason for introducing a 26-hour day. Perhaps January will see us able to think about some 'long periods of rest' which seem to be a regular feature of trips to the moon!

Vehicle inspection

This annual event took place immediately before Exercise 'Small Pack.' All those N.C.O.s and men involved in preparing the vehicles worked extremely hard and the Regiment, under the guidance and assistance of **Captain Greene** (M.T.O.), **Captain Bird** (O.C. L.A.D.) and their staffs, produced a result which the inspectors commented upon favourably. Well done all concerned.

Exercise 'Small Pack'

What a misnomer! It was more like all pack than small pack with the amount of kit we had to take out. Many brains were taxed before the exercise and many lessons were learned before we left barracks. In fact, apart from withstanding the cold and wet, a high percentage of the hard work was completed before we deployed, on preparations for the annual F.F.R. inspection by the G.O.C. 4th Division, **Major-General D. W. Fraser, O.B.E.** The General spent the first day of the exercise visiting all elements of his H.Q. and Signal Regiment in the field. **S.S.M. Fred Common** introduced an element of civilisation into the 'Sig. Ops.' 432 at 'Tac' when he produced two bottles of champagne one evening to celebrate the last exercise for the S.O.2, **Major Ted Andrews.** C.R. Signals must have as good a nose as Gina (that well-known yellow labrador) —he visited whilst the bubbles were still very active. We have heard rumours that this exercise is likely to be an annual affair!

Hockey—Wot no goals!

Frustration in the extreme. The team have been playing attractive hockey up to the circle but lacked finish and scored no goals against two teams which we had hoped to beat. The first round of the Army Cup was a reptition. After extra time we were held to a goalless draw by 13th/18th Hussars on our ground. We may have missed **Corporal 'Stew' Bromidge** (on a U.K. course) in the forward line but we still had **Sergeant (congratulations on promotion) 'Paddy' O'Gorman** and **Corporal Reg Smith.**

In the replay against 13th/18th at Munster, we were a goal down after 15 minutes' play and were still in that unhappy state with 12 minutes to go. Then hey presto! Three quick goals —all scored by **Lieutenant Wagstaff** — saved the day. What caused this sudden improvement? It may well have been one of the opposing spectators who suggested in a very loud voice that our skipper, **Major Hartnett,** would have a heart attack any minute if the 'lillywhites' kept at him! Certainly the last ten minutes of that game was most encouraging hockey and we must find a formula for playing more of it.

Cross-country

Our team this year has been more active than in the past two or three seasons. We have held our own inter-Squadron meetings and the Regimental team have been running in invitation and league meetings. **Signalmen Fred Barton** and **David Richardson** are our most consistent runners. Their supporting cast have included members, hoping for selection for the ski-ing team, who may have had an ulterior motive in getting fit! The team went Orienteering recently and certainly did not let us down, finishing in the middle of a big field in their debut in this activity.

Golf—glorious finish

Our golfers ended the season on a high note. The stalwarts were **Majors Hodgson** and **Ellis, Captain Field** and **Staff Sergeants Kirk** and **Cochrane.** In fact the latter two had the audacity to lead the Sergeants' Mess team to their first-ever victory over the Officers in the autumn encounter.

The team's recent successes included being the winners of the 4th Division inter-unit team championship (a new event). In the Divisional meeting second and third places in the medal competition and first place in the greensome foursomes came our way. We took second place in both the Regimental foursomes and the four-a-side team Stableford competition in the Royal Signals' autumn meeting.

So all in all they have kept the flag flying and their driving has been getting longer and longer as successes have been achieved!

Sergeants' Mess

November has provided a lull between the social storm in October and the Christmas programme.

Dinner nights for the departures of the Divisional Commander, three Warrant Officers class I and visits by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General Fraser** and **Major-General Horsfield,** were enjoyed. The Mess also had a riotous weekend celebrating the marriage of our confirmed bachelor, **Colour Sergeant 'Nick' Nicholson,** with 170 guests at the reception. His complaint, in his appreciation of presents, was the absence of the kitchen sink! This was soon rectified by **Lieutenant Bob Aitken** (late R.S.M.) and **W.O.I Alan Graham! R.S.M. Hill** and his committee are now planning the bumper ball and Christmas draw, which are combined this year for the first time, together with a wealth of other Christmas entertainment.

9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
B.F.P.O. 53

New Commanding Officer

ON 18th November, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Bate, O.B.E.,** handed over command of the Regiment to **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Mc L. Kinnon. Colonel Bate** returns to the U.K. where he will take up an appointment at the Imperial Defence College, London, thus joining the serried ranks of brolly-carrying, bowler-wearing commuters.

This is **Colonel McKinnon's** first tour in Cyprus. His only other visit here was for a two-week holiday in 1960. He joins us from 1 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. The Regiment wishes **Colonel McKinnon** a long and happy stay here.

"Lang may yer lum reek."

Promise fulfilled

There was so much trouble with our new incinerator since building started many months ago that **Lieutenant-Colonel Bate** went on record as saying, "The day we get the thing going we'll crack a bottle of champagne." True to his word—as ever, although now departed from the U.K.—he left instructions for the Second-in-Command to do the necessary 'on the day.' The 'day' arrived a couple of weeks ago when you might have seen two V.I.P. visitors, the Colonel (AQ), **Colonel H. W. Clarke,** and his designated relief, **Colonel T. M. Braithwaite,** out on the wadi solemnly sipping 'champers' with several others who finally got the monster to go.

A wigging for the lads

S.S.M. 1 Squadron, **W.O.II Bert Fugill,** found it difficult to keep his hair on recently. The problem seemed to be that during off-duty hours he kept seeing hippie types who looked remarkably like soldiers in his Squadron. But they can't be, he thought to himself, none of my lads has hair over his shoulders. However, one day he met **Signalman Charlie Morrison;** it was without doubt the **Morrison** he knew well, but this particular **Morrison** wore shoulder-length hair, yet only two hours before he had seen the same **Morrison** with a short back and sides. The lads, it seemed, had taken to wearing wigs to fall in with the fashion at local discotheques, etc.

But what could our trusty Sergeant-Major do? Forbid the wearing of wigs and find himself faced with rows of balding soldiers who had been hiding their guilty secret under a hairpiece?

Sergeant-Major Fugill's solution is simple. "Wigs," he says, "are quite acceptable — provided they conform to Queen's Regulations," and that means short back and sides!

Bonfire Night

Once again the Regiment put on its own fireworks display on the evening of the 5th. It attracted a crowd of about a thousand, adults and children of all ages, who were keen to sample the delights of toffee apples and hotdogs before the show. Having such a good response for a second year running has encouraged the P.R.I., **Major Terry Moynan,** to plan for an even bigger display in 1970.

Royal Pioneer Corps arrives

By the beginning of December most of the Special Services Detachment of about 40 Royal Pioneer Corps personnel had arrived, and were settling in to their new duties as the Regimental Provost staff, dog-handlers, M.F.O. team and other jobs in the unit. Every man is a volunteer and is serving with a Signal Regiment for the first time in his career. Many have had special vocational training to fit them for their new tasks. We wish them a very happy tour with XI.

Change of mind

Recently the P.R. Unit here sent a reporter and photographer to have a poke around. They were escorted around by the leading dog handler, **Lance-Corporal Mick Stevens.** During their stay here they were treated to a display by **Signalman Len Bell's** war dog, Marco. Many snaps were snapped and eventually the photographer announced that he wanted a 'close-up' of Marco.

"I wouldn't," said Len, "if I were you." The photographer, however, insisted, being fooled by Marco's slight build. Unfortunately Marco seemed to consider the P.R. man as just an extra ration of marrow-bone-jelly, with a camera. Fortunately **Len** restrained Marco, and the net result is shown.

Needless to say the photographer reached a rapid decision regarding the closeness of close-ups hereafter.

[Photo by Sergeant R. Palmer, Army P.R. Services, Dhekelia.

"YOU'VE BEEN WARNED! NOW CLEAR OUT!"
Marco the guard dog belonging to Signalman Len Bell of 9th Regiment makes his meaning very clear, when P.R. photographers come a bit too near

Rugby

Five members of the Regiment, **Sergeant Ken Bagnall, Corporal Mick Turner, Corporal 'Chippy" Wood, Lance-Corporal Tony Lynn** and **Signalman Terry Bone,** were recently selected to play in an Army (Cyprus) trial rugby match; **Corporals Turner** and **Lynn** were successful. They later went on a tour of Malta with the Army XV and have played several representative matches.

Two of our Royal Air Force players also had a trial for the R.A.F. (Cyprus) XV and were both successful.

PRC-316... long range HF radio

The PRC-316 was designed and developed by the Signals Research and Development Establishment as a highly reliable transmitter/receiver for long-range patrol operations. Because the set will often be used under arduous conditions by non-skilled operators, equipment operation has been kept to its simplest form.

The unit is designed primarily for skywave CW communications over distances of hundreds of miles and AM voice communications over shorter distances. The equipment carries its own sealed primary battery which plugs into a compartment beneath the set. An integral morse key is provided. The basic station kit weighs less than 4kg (9 lb).

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A MAN OF MANY SKILLS

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The operator can carry out tasks unrestricted by elaborate and weighty communications equipment. The compactness of the unit enables it to fit undetected in the pocket of the operator when used for security operations.

The communicator has four, preselected, crystal controlled channels suitable for single or two frequency simplex operation. Versions suitable for 12½, 20, 25 or 50kHz channel spacings are available. It is designed with automatic squelching of unwanted channel noise so that the receiver is silent until the incoming signal is received.

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SEVENTY TREMENDOUS DAYS

An account of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team grand tour of North America with the British Army Tournament and Tattoo

"The sun hasn't set on the Empire — it shines in the eyes of the people, especially the 300 military members of the British Tournament and Tattoo"—BOSTON DAILY GLOBE.

The North American Tattoo

IT was a wet day on Sennelager Ranges in B.A.O.R. when **Captain Barry Rowe** received a signal informing him that, in less than two weeks, he would be flying to America in command of the Royal Signals Display Team who were to form part of the North American Tattoo organised by the Parachute Regiment. The 'White Helmets' formed part of the 300-strong tattoo consisting of the massed bands of the Royal Scots Greys, 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Parachute Regiment, a team of gymnasts from the Parachute Regiment which included six W.R.A.C., the Royal Air Force police dogs' display team and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Greys and Gordon Highlanders.

First impressions and oh those customs!

After an exacting hour-and-a-half battling through American customs and immigration we decided that we would never, ever, complain about British customs again—there seemed to be a block at all the counters at the same time and in front of us a large Moroccan was having tremendous difficulty in obtaining clearance for his numerous family yet all with only one passport. It was very strange arriving in New York to find that, due to the six-hour time difference, New Yorkers were partaking of lunch and we had already eaten dinner on the plane. Our thoughts were only of bed and rest when New Yorkers were about to start an afternoon's work and we were gathered into the hum-drum activity of East Coast life. However, when in Rome . . . Eventually we reached our hotel and were told that "definitely, the English could not carry their own suitcases," and we should wait for a bellboy. At last, after half-an-hour of carrying Americans' suitcases a bellboy came up, took one look at our luggage, tried the cases for weight, sighed and gave up; so we ended up carrying our own baggage upstairs anyway.

Triumph over teething troubles

When we arrived in New York we found that administration by military standards was chaotic, even the modifications to the Triumph GT6, which was to be used as part of the show, had yet to be completed. The British Leyland Motor Corporation acted with their usual speed and efficiency and the car was soon with the New York agents in the capable hands of **Gene**, the workshop's foreman. **Gene** was a huge American with a very forceful character and he soon had five men working on the GT6. True to his promise, he had the car ready by 7 p.m. the next evening, and while the team captain was waiting for the finishing touches to be completed **Gene** was heard muttering, "Foreigners, foreigners! There's a foreigner demanding the car immediately and all I have to work on it is foreigners!" Sure enough, working busily all round the car was a veritable League of Nations consisting of two Italian brothers, one Spaniard, one German and a Jamaican called **Kipling Marks**. As **Captain Rowe** drove away in the GT6 **Kipling Marks** called, in a very aristocratic voice, "We spend all day fixing his car and I bet he smashes it up on his way to the arena!" Two hundred yards down the highway the Triumph hit a New York taxi causing considerable damage to the front. Ten dollars, a policeman and a recovery wagon later the car was sheepishly returned to a horrified **Kipling Marks** and was left there to be worked on in the morning. When **Gene** arrived next day he nearly went berserk. He phoned the British Leyland Corporation and asked them what the h—— they meant by the joke, to which they replied, with great presence of mind, that they had no idea, but that he was to get it fixed that day. And **Gene** set his League of Nations on it once again, delivering the car to Madison Square Gardens himself!

The incident with the car was only the first of a string of accidents which lasted the first week of the tour. After this initial disaster period the whole tattoo gave exceptionally good performances and things ran smoothly.

Our itinerary

The tattoo was to tour North America for ten weeks, covering ten thousand miles. Starting in New York in September, we arrived in the middle of a heat wave, fortunately, both hotel and arena were air-conditioned. From New York we moved to Montreal, where, even at the beginning of October, the weather was still very warm. Toronto and Ottawa followed, with an almost English climate, but then we started to move south into the States again, and air-conditioning was required in New Haven, Connecticut and Philadelphia, North Carolina. We took our buses to Atlantia City and then flew to Houston, Texas. In Houston, we were certain that nobody could survive without air-conditioning, although we discovered that the Texans play tennis in the summer heat. On from Houston, still in Texas, to San Antonio and a brief stop-over in El Passo, where we imagined ourselves as true cowboys and bought all the right gear. Our next halt was in beautiful Arizona, with perhaps the most pleasant climate of all—it is very dry and the temperature remains at a steady 80-90° at midday all the year round, and here we performed our only outside performance in the Rodeo Arena. California followed, San Diego, Anaheim, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The famous Californian weather did not impress at all, because the fog was worse than at home, and the air so polluted by exhaust fumes that it stung the eyes. Anaheim will be remembered for our visit to Disneyland, where everything is so realistic, that one is soon imagining that all of Disney's characters are real. Some of us managed a visit to the Paramount Studios, in Hollywood, where Leif Erickson very kindly took us to watch filming on the High Chaparral set, where we were fortunate in finding all the stars of the show on set that day. From California, we travelled up to Oregon in our ten-coach-long wagon train. Through Washington and into Vancouver, D.C., we continued for a one-night stand before flying to the grim chill of Boston, Massachusetts, and back to the United Kingdom.

Moving around America — loading and transporting

We were rather concerned to know how we were going to move all our equipment, motor cycles and Triumph sports car, but we had no cause to worry—half way through our last show in New York a big man in a white cowboy hat appeared. The rest of his outfit consisted of a blue cowboy-type shirt with a shoestring tie, held together with a large serpent-shaped silver clip, cowboy boots and tight-fitting trousers. He introduced himself, not surprisingly, as Tex, and claimed to be a Texan, but we later discovered that he came from Philadelphia. With him was one of the smallest men we had seen, an Italian, who he introduced as Ralph, and who he bullied unmercifully in a very loud voice. In fact, Tex had only one volume—very loud!

He explained that he was the driver of the motorcycle transporter and that Ralph was the driver of the vehicle which was to carry the equipment belonging to the rest of the tattoo. He made it quite clear from the start that to transport the White Helmets was a much superior task to transporting such things as gymnasts' mats and bandmasters' rostrums. We inquired whether all our equipment would ever fit into his truck, but it took him only one glance to decide that it would. He certainly knew his job, but he warned that if ANY man smoked, after so much as the first wheel had entered the transporter, he would fell them with one blow.

The loading of the truck, under the watchful eye of the

THE TEAM IS HONOURED BY THE U.S. SIGNAL CORPS

Brigadier General Richard C. Horne III, Commanding General U.S. Army Signals Centre and School meets the "WhiteHelmets"
Left to right: **Signalman Blaikie, Corporal White, Signalman Robinson, Signalman Weeks, Lance-Corporal Lloyd, Signalman Perks, Brigadier General Horne III, Captain B. H. Rowe, Royal Signals**

Team's Corporal, **Corporal Hank Hancock,** soon became second nature to us, and by the time we reached Ottawa, it could be done in half-an-hour. It was said by those who had seen us load that it was probably the best part of the White Helmets' show! The motor cycles were ridden from ground level straight up a narrow ramp to the upper platform of the transporter. As they entered the truck there was only about six inches left between the handlebars and the top of the truck, and the bikes had to be going at sufficient speed to climb the one-in-two gradient. The riders looked like apaches as they clung on to the sides of their motor cycles to avoid decapitation at the top.

Unloading proved equally entertaining, when people dispersed rapidly as bikes hurtled down the ramps, seemingly out of control.

To move 300 men and women, plus 20 dogs, we were supplied with ten buses of the 'Greyhound' type. By American standards they were a bit ancient, being four years old, and most of them listed about 20 degrees to one side or the other. As the dogs had occupied all the first-class compartments on the aircraft out to America, we were not at all surprised when we heard that they were to have two buses all to themselves for the tour of North America.

The third bus was used to carry all the band uniforms, and the remainder carried the rest of the tattoo. The White Helmets were altogether in one bus, which we shared with a few of the Royal Scots Greys. The bus driver was a little man who looked like Sammy Davis Jr. He was most unreliable, and we could never rest assured that he would arrive on time, and on many occasions the team found themselves stranded, but when he did arrive, he drove so much faster than all the other drivers and knew all the best places to eat, so that the team forgave him for his other faults.

We took great delight in teaching 'Tommy' all the English slang that we knew, and he, in his turn, would then go and try it out on the Commanding Officer, which sometimes had interesting repercussions.

Travelling from city to city took a lot of time, but we weren't without entertainment during the long trips. New words were worked out to old songs (most of which, unfortunately, are not printable in this magazine) and the standard of guitar accompaniment became extraordinarily high. **Signalman Chris Edwards** could always be relied upon to produce a laugh with his version of the commentary given during the tour by the Production Manager, **Tony Kraber.**

Surprisingly enough, in all the 10,000 miles we travelled, not one bus broke down, but we did have our incidents. On one occasion, just outside Atlanta City, Dog Bus No. 1 pulled to the side to allow Dog Bus No. 2 to catch up. Unfortunately, in his concern, the driver did not see a deep hole in the surface and the vehicle finished up supported on the rear axle. All the other buses stopped and, as usual on these occasions, everyone gave their advice on how best it could be moved. Everyone had a go at pushing or lifting it off, but to no avail, and eventually, due to shortage of time, Dog Bus. No. 1 was left to its own devices. We never found out how they got it out, but it joined us at Houston right on time.

Arenas and stadiums

Some of the stadiums we performed in were most impressive. For example, Maddison Square Gardens, which is a fairly new building, is built over the top of the Pennsylvania

The Grand Parade of all performers at the finale, Raleigh, North Carolina

Railway Station, and the arena in which we performed, was on the fifth floor! Below us was the famous forum where world boxing titles are fought for. The Gardens seated some twenty thousand people, and so even when the crowd reached the exalted number of twelve thousand, it only looked half full. The lighting here was exceptional in its design, but for practicality it was not the best. The spotlights could only rotate through a very small circle, and no one light could beam the whole length of the arena, occasionally we lost a 'Jimmy' in the dark.

The floor was the shiniest concrete surface we had ever seen, and there was virtually no grip on it. At first we had to practice very slowly, and we thought at this speed the show would not be worth watching, but evenutally the team mastered the surface and every show became faster than the last. Here, of course, the special Dunlop racing tyres proved a god-send. Unfortunately, unfamiliarity with inside arenas and highly-polished floors caused a lot of spills, but at no stage did the team reduce speed.

For sheer size, the Astradome Stadium in Houston, Texas, was incredibly spectacular. It is the world's first domed, air-conditioned, sports stadium. The roof is 208 feet high, and the dome spans 642 feet, with an astronomical outside diameter of 710 feet. To keep the building cool, there is 6,000 tons of air-conditioning equipment. It's true that in Texas everything is bigger and better!

In Seattle, the town had built a large civic entertainments centre consisting of two large covered arenas, both of which we played in, and a vast football stadium.

In between the arenas was a large fountain which looked a bit like a sea mine with more than a thousand spikes sticking out. Each of the spikes contained a nozzle, controlled by sound sensitive valves, and around the fountain were hundreds of multi-coloured lights which effectively coloured the water. On the outer perimeter of the fountain were loudspeakers through which classical music was played. As the sound intensified from one side the fountain appeared to lean to that side, and as the volume increased, the amount of water and the height of the fountain increased also. When the music faded away, the swell of the fountain water subsided. It was so beautiful that some members could not be dragged away from it.

At the other end of the scale, we experienced some very primitive arenas, and in the little cowboy town of Tucson we performed in a very dusty rodeo arena, giving the only open-air show on the whole of the tour. We performed in the middle of the afternoon in a temperature of 84°. We thought that very few people would come out to see us, as there was no overhead cover for the spectators, but nearly the whole town sat to watch the 2½-hour shown in the hot sun.

Standing ovation

In Tucson, a particularly enthusiastic town, when one of the gymnasts was injured during the show, many of the crowd stayed behind after the performance to ask how badly he was hurt, and while he was in the hospital there, he was inundated with gifts, visitors and telephone calls from well-wishers who were total strangers. Almost the whole town came to see our show, and at the end of the performance, we were given a standing ovation—a thing almost unheard of in Tucson. Throughout the whole of the tour, the American public invited members of the team to visit their homes, to parties and for meals or drinks. Unfortunately, the tour was so hectic that the majority were happier going out for a quick meal and a few beers and then back to the hotel and bed. There were always those that couldn't sleep though, and there was always an after-show party somewhere, if you wanted one, though most of the team watched television or played cards until the early hours. But there was also the occasion when one of more senior members of the tattoo was disturbed in the middle of the night by the playing of bagpipes. First thing

in the morning a pipe major was brought before him, but with astonishing confidence, the pipe major was able to say: "Sir, I am certain it was none of *my* men." Such great confidence in his men was truly inspiring until it was learned that it was the pipe major himself playing the bagpipes late at night!

Fitting the show to American conditions

The show for America had to be modified in a number of respects to allow for the smaller enclosed arenas and for the time limits imposed by the production manager. Also a number of our tricks that were a great success in England did not go down as well in the States; for example, the 'Brick Wall' trick, where a motor cycle jumps through a wall of wooden bricks, as the Americans felt that we were trying to hoodwink them into thinking it was a proper brick wall! But most of our tricks that are so famous here were a great success in America.

We started with our figure of eight ride 'Helmets,' the trick that was described in the 'Houston Chronicle' as "courting death in split-second manoeuvres of intertwining figure eights." Unfortunately, most women in the audience did not see this because they all covered up their eyes, and those that were brave enough to look screamed hysterically. For the sake of the ladies' nerves, we then went on to some slower, but nonetheless difficult tricks, like the one where three people sit on one bike; one steers by sitting backwards on the handlebars, another sits in the saddle, and the third man stands on his shoulders. Then we performed the famous 'Jimmies' where two riders adopt the position of our cap badge, one on top of the other, allowing the bottom man to keep control of the bike. A favourite with the ladies was the trick we call the 'Tableau' and what the Americans called the 'Bouquet.' Ten men on one bike, at a word of command, lean away from the machine so that the bottom men are practically scraping their helmets on the ground. The opening of the 'Bouquet' always brought gasps of delight and was one of the big moments of every show. Another crowd-pleaser was **Lance-Corporal 'Clicky' Lloyd** on his ladder. He climbs up the ladder, balances on the very top and then climbs down the other side while the bike makes two circuits of the arena.

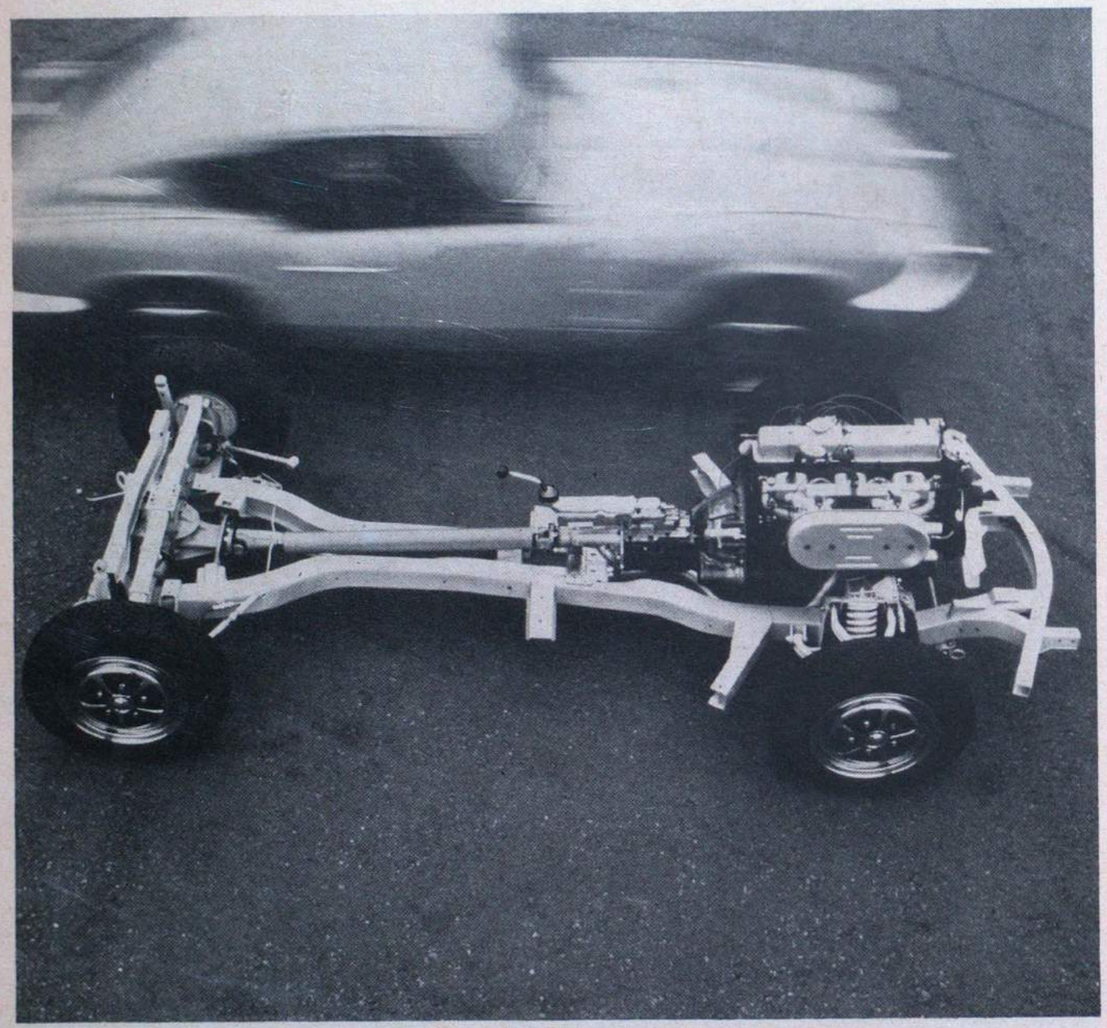
Cashing-in on a 21st birthday

One of our more dangerous tricks, starting the second part of our show, consists of eight bikes making intertwining figure of eights with the riders sitting on the handlebars. One slight slip can cause a very nasty fall, and this accounted for one of our serious accidents, when **Signalman Mick Wedeman,** who had ridden so well earlier in the tour, fell and broke his wrist. After this came the most spectacular jump of the show, when **Signalman Cheesey Launder** jumped the full length of

THE PYRAMID—PROBABLY THE MOST SPECTACULAR ITEM FROM THE CROWD'S POINT OF VIEW

Performers:

Signalman Hudson
Lance-Corporal Lloyd, Corporal Hancock,
Corporal White, Signalman Borda, Signalman Weeks,
Signalman Barkess, Signalman Purden, Signalman Perks, Signalman Turner,
Corporal Bark, Signalman Blaby, Signalman Robinson, Signalman Blaikie, Signalman Hanlon,
Signalman Launder, Signalman Edwards, Corporal Button, Signalman Wedeman, Signalman Billam, Signalman Feirn
(Signalman Milburn is in the middle but not visible. Lance-Corporal Coffill and Signalman Price are involved in other tricks)



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Every inch is racy. With its tailored-for-speed bodyline it looks rarin' to go standing still.

Every inch reliable. The GT6 Mk2 takes tight corners and fast bends—without wagging its tail. *The wishbone independent rear suspension gives road-hold and cornering power to match the vivid performance.*

And in other tight corners, it's worth knowing that the Triumph GT6 Mk2's turning circle is seven feet smaller than its nearest competitor's.

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The adjustable steering wheel is designed to telescope on serious impact. The rear window is heated. And the doors have anti-burst locks.

The price. £1,179 18s.1d. ex-works, including heater and purchase tax.

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BRITISH LEYLAND TRIUMPH

Triumph put in what the others leave out.

HIGH FLYER

Signalman Launder on his Triumph Tiger 100 motor cycle easily clears the Triumph GT6 Sports Car at Maddison Square Gardens, New York

the Triumph GT6. Half way through the tour, **Signalman Launder** had his 21st birthday and the commentator was asked to mention this as he did the jump. It raised so much applause from the audience that the Production Manager refused to drop it, and we started with consecutive night—yesterday; the day before yesterday; the day before the day before yesterday; a few days ago; and the other day, until the whole tattoo was fed up with the words "It was **Signalman Launder's** birthday the other day, shall we ask him to give us all a present and jump over the car again." This was always followed by ever-increashing applause from the audience, and the jump was done a second time.

One or two mishaps

One of the more popular comedy turns is the trick where an apparently drunken **Signalman Mick Perks** falls off a motor cycle combination, and after a few atetmpts to catch it he is eventually chased off the arena by the riderless combination. This is one of our less dangerous tricks, but much to Signalman Perks' embarrassment, caused him to damage his ankle so severely that he hobbled about Boston with a walking-stick and was unable to perform.

By far the most famous of all the White Helmets' tricks is the pyramid on six bikes. This appears a fairly peaceful performance, but has many times caused serious accidents. While appearing in Portland **Signalman Mick Hanlon** jumped down from the pyramid but fell badly and dislocated his elbow. This meant that in Boston we were three men short, due to injuries, and the Americans were treated to the unusual sight of both the team officer and sergeant performing in the pyramid.

Signalman Tom Weeks suffered from a very sore behind for several weeks after his motor cycle came down from the 'jump ride' at a near vertical angle, bounced twice, careered across the arena in a trail of sparks and left him sitting in the middle! **Signalman 'Lofty' Price,** in the same ride, in another arena, also came to grief. Instead of closing down the throttle on landing, he opened it up and was still gathering speed when he hit the barrier. Fortunately there was little damage done to him and he landed gracefully in a front row empty seat of the front stalls. Although the American public thought this was a marvellous trick, the Team Sergeant, **Sergeant Geoff Biggs,** never at a loss on these occasions, rose to his commendable disciplinarian standards and charged **Signalman Price** with sitting in the audience in uniform, which was against tatoo rules!

A fire to beat all fires

At last, in the Cow Palace, an arena in San Francisco, we were instructed to use a large straw and petrol fire jump as opposed to the smaller asbestos fire we had used in all other enclosed arenas. The results were beyond anyone's comprehension! The fire was so hot and smoking that it blackened the faces of the performers, and the tremendous heat caused balloons which had been trapped in the rafters since the Kennedy election campaign to rise out and fall to the floor of the arena. When the fire had finished there was so much smoke (due to lack of ventilation) that the pipe band, which followed, could hardly see or be seen. At the end of their performance the pipers threatened to run amok, and it was necessary for **Captain Rowe** and **Sergeant Biggs** to hide, as both the pipe majors were seen heading in the direction of the motor cycle bay clutching their 'dirks.' Needless to say, straw and petrol fires were never used again.

Red and Blue get mixed

When we arrived in Los Angeles, employees of Johnson Motors, Inc., the Triumph Motor Cycle Distributors for the West Coast, turned out in full strength. Over a hundred of them took a block booking of seats for the performance and intended to make a spectacular formation in the audience by forming a large blue letter 'T' on a red background. The idea was tremendous, but unfortunately some of the red-jacketed girls wanted to hold hands with their blue-jacketed boy friends, and in the end the design was almost unrecognisable! They were all tremendously impressed by our efforts and after the show invited us all to a Pizza and Beer Party, where we sang songs and each team member was presented with a blue Triumph windcheater, which we wore as part of our civilian uniform for the rest of our tour, instead of the official tattoo blazer.

Boosting the Triumph Trident

In California, the Triumph agents were selling the first of the magnificent new 130 m.p.h., 750 c.c., three-cylinder Triumph Trident motor cycles, and so we decided to do all we could to give sales a boost. In San Francisco, we borrowed a Trident from Monroe Motors and displayed it in the arena as part of the show, alongside our 1921 model Triumph. We also had the opportunity of doing tests on the motor cycle, which turned out a bit hair-raising at times, as none of the team had ever ridden one of these machines before. The member of the team who successfully exceeded 100 m.p.h. in the arena car park shall remain nameless. To assist in publicity for the Trident, the Tattoo P.R. Officer, **Captain Lorna Mortimer,** W.R.A.C., was talked into riding on the pillion. We had difficulty in finding a white helmet which would enclose her long locks, but eventually **Corporal Tony Button** surrendered his and she stormed across the Golden Gate Bridge, showing the American public that the Triumph Trident had arrived on the West Coast! Later she admitted it was the second most frightening experience of her life; the most frightening being the evening she had sat in the Triumph GT6 sports car during a performance as it screamed around the arena on two wheels and was jumped over by a 500 c.c. Triumph Tiger.

Last-night fun

Basically, our performance remained very much the same throughout the States and Canada. Only irate fire chiefs, dangerously slippery floors, or lack of men due to injuries, caused the occasional change. On the last night **Corporal Chalky White** started the ball rolling while riding his motor cycle around the arena, he stood on the saddle, with hands outstretched to the sides and threw a final salute to **Colonel Corbould.** Other performers felt that they must follow suit and we even had **Corporal 'Clicky' Lloyd** saluting from the top of his ladder! The late change which pleased the Americans most was **Signalman Rocky Hudson,** top man in the pyramid, holding a large notice up saying on one side, 'Goodbye, U.S.A.' and on the other side 'England, here we come. This caused even more applause than the night we were able to announce the happy news that he had just become father to a bouncing baby boy—and after the announcement that **Signalman Tom Weeks** had also become a father while on the tour, the team gained quite a reputation for its virility!

Summing it all up

In retrospect, the tour of North America was memorable and exciting. At times, the whole team felt as high as the Empire State Building, and at other moments were too exhausted even to eat. The enthusiasm and hospitality of the audiences and our hosts was quite overwhelming and made up for the administrative headaches. The British Tournament and Tattoo was received with tremendous acclamation. The Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team was an outstanding part of its success.

LIKE TO JOIN THIS FAMOUS TEAM?

If you are keen, active, fit and daring, with good eyesight and physically strong, then apply through your O.C. for a selection trial in October or November.

Triumph and the Royal Corps of Signals make a brilliant team

The World famous Display Team of the Royal Corps of Signals was first formed in 1931 and has thrilled audiences in many countries as far away as Australia and the U.S.A. This year, their full programme of engagements will again include the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London.

The Triumph Company is very proud of its long association with the Team which has relied exclusively upon Triumph machines from the very first performance. The ability of the machines to withstand the tremendous stresses of hundreds of displays is adequate proof of their dependability in the most adverse conditions of Military and other essential services. More than 250 World Government Authorities, Police organisations and Military Forces use Triumph machines, designed and built specifically for dependable duty and backed by technical service of long experience.

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We would draw the attention of our readers to the firms who have taken special space in this supplement and have thus helped in its production.

UNIT NOTES

(Continued from page 22)

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

THE Commander of Training Brigade, Royal Signals, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** took the salute at the pass-off parade held on 31st October. The best recruit of No. 2 Troop was **Signalman Michael Savage,** of Morecambe, Lancs. **Signalman Savage,** who was a motor mechanic before joining the Army, is now undergoing training as a Signals Technician at 8th Signal Regiment. A keen football player he is also interested in rally driving.

Signalman M. Savage

Signalman J. Hudson

On 14th November **Brigadier D. W. Scott Barrett, M.B.E., M.C., Commanding** 6 Brigade, took the salute at a pass-off parade at which the best recruit was **Signalman J. Hudson**—a carpenter in civilian life, **Signalman Hudson** is now undergoing training as a special operator.

5th November celebrations

In keeping with the custom of the country to celebrate the attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament, a fireworks display was organised in the Regiment. 24th Regiment took on the task of catering for the multitude by providing soup and hot dogs which helped ward off the cold. Our Regimental Sergeant Major, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Orr,** controlled the programme by radio from a lofty perch and the evening was voted a great success.

Ski-ing training

The return of **Lieutenant C. J. Grant** from Greenland has led to a new interest in ski-ing in the Regiment. Those recruits who do not wish to take their Bronze Medallion are now able to learn the basics of downhill ski-ing on the new indoor Garrison slope as part of the training programme. The slope, measuring 150ft. long, is a great asset to the Garrison and may well lead to fewer accidents when real snow arrives, as it must soon. So far we have had no injuries during training, a feat attributed to the high standard of instruction given by **C.S.M.I. Norris** and **Staff Sergeant Markie.** It is rumoured, however, that **Staff Markie,** unsatisfied with the length of the run, tried to demolish the end wall during a stem christiana—no permanent damage resulted.

Rugby

Success has at last shone upon the Regimental XV with a fine win in the first round of the Northern Command Cup against 2 Field Regiment. The score was 8 points to 5 with **Corporal Wilson** and **Captain Brooks** as the scorers, but the win was essentially a team effort with forwards and three-quarters combining well. Prior to the match the rugby fraternity had been somewhat inactive due mainly to the weather, but our one club fixture in the last few weeks resulted in a defeat by Roundhay Rams who won by virtue of their greater experience in exploiting the referee.

Squash

Squash in the Regiment continues to flourish with the Regimental team scoring good wins over 8th Signal Regiment (4-1) and 24th Signal Regiment (4-3). The Regimental handicap competition is now reaching its final stages with the seeds finding their way through, but not perhaps as easily as they thought. The next Regimental match is against the Irish Rangers who, with all their training in B.A.O.R., will no doubt provide fit opposition.

Hockey

It has not been a good month for the hockey XI. We lost against R.A.F. Leeming by two goals to one and in the Army Cup first round were defeated by 2 Field Regiment, R.A., by 5-2. In our last match the Royal Irish Rangers defeated us by 3 goals to 1 but they used two secret weapons. Firstly, they had imported an Irish bog on which to play the match and secondly they arranged for helicopter training to take place in the next field. However, nothing daunted, we look forward to better luck.

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

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

THE month of November began on a high-note visit by the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and his wife. During his brief visit he was able to meet and talk to a large proportion of the Regiment at their work.

Training Wing

The pass-off for Military Proficiency course 7/69 took place on Friday, 14th November, and they were inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel Holifield, M.C. Staff Sergeant Maunder,** the parade commander, and **Lance-Corporal Boyle,** both from the Intelligence Corps, came out top of their respective courses. **Staff Sergeant Maunder** and **Corporal Underwood** should also get a special mention for obtaining 'A' passes on the course — the first two this year. Perhaps this was a fitting climax for **Captain John Alexander, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals, to hand-over to **Lieutenant Craig Treeby,** Royal Signals, the new Wing O.C.

Ski-ing

This year the Regiment has decided to take up ski-ing on a larger scale than ever before. We have been particularly lucky in being able to find a large farmhouse right on the ski slopes of Bayrischyell in Bavaria. This will be our home from January to the beginning of April. **Lieutenant Colin Riley** will be our ski instructor and we hope that by next year we will have a good team.

'W' Troop, 2 Squadron, 13th Signal Regiment

The W.R.A.C. Troop, though small in numbers, has produced a B.A.O.R. squash player in **Corporal Karen Edwards,** who has just flown back to the U.K. for the Inter-Zone Squash Racquets event. We also have a B.A.O.R. badminton player in **Corporal Jane McPherson,** and had three representatives in the B.A.O.R. hockey match against Laarbrucke ladies, **Captain Melody Greene, Corporal Jane McPherson** and **Lance-Corporal Ann Laughton.** Are we down-hearted? No!

Nor have the rest of the Troop been idle. A small adventure training party took themselves off to the Moselle in August, where they managed to inveigle themselves into Deinhard's champagne factory to approve the local brew. They came back bubbling with enthusiasm.

In September we entered a team of 14 W.R.A.C. in the Haelen international walking competition in which we came second, over a gruelling course of 20 kms.—no mean feat! We beat many male teams. In mid-December five of the Troop are going over to the Harz mountains for a ski-training course, and the rest of us hope to get down to Bavaria for a week's ski-ing in February.

Adventure training

The Regimental Adventure/Initiative training has been continuing during the past month but has now ceased in preparation for ski-ing. **Sergeant Taylor,** with **Corporals Dave Gray** and **Ron Bumstead** and **Signalman Pat Gordon,** returned at the beginning of this month after having visited and climbed the Wendelstein in southern Bavaria. Their visit to the area was also nicely timed to be able to visit a local U.S. Army Base that was opening and new cellar bar. They were invited by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Crowell,** to attend the opening and also to sample vast quantities of their beer, free!

Already new ideas are being formulated for next year and **Lieutenant Craig Treeby** (ex-216 Parachute Signal Squadron) and **Staff Sergeant Hazard** (ex-S.A.S.) are hoping to attend a parachute course by the U.S. 10th Special Forces Group (Green Berets).

Cross-country

Our annual Inter-Squadron Cross-Country Competition took place on 30th October. The weather was ideal and some 24 competitors, representing our three Squadrons, got off to a good start with the drop of the flag by our Second-in-Command, **Major E. L. Rogers.**

The course covered six-and-a-half miles through the wooded countryside, over sand tracks and hills. Needless to say we have one of the finest courses in this part of Germany. The first runner home, **Lance-Corporal Chris Burr,** of 1 Squadron, crossed the line some 40 minutes from the start followed closely by **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' McGillvrary,** of 2 Squadron. The third position was taken by **Sergeant Steve Sims,** H.Q. Squadron, but despite 2 Squadron holding the 2nd and 5th and H.Q. Squadron having the 3rd and 6th positions, 1 Squadron trumped the field, taking the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th positions to get possession of the Regimental trophy for the second year in succession.

Prizes were presented by our Second-in-Command's wife, **Mrs. E. L. Rogers.** Special mention must be made of two stout-hearted runners, **W.O.II Stevenson,** of 2 Squadron, and **Staff Sergeant Harding,** 18 minutes after the first runner home. A pleasant afternoon which finished off nicely with hot soup and tea provided by the courtesy of **Captain Alf Reed,** our Messing Officer.

GRIPPING THAT REGIMENTAL CUP A LITTLE TIGHTER
Members of 1st Squadron, 13th Signal Regiment, Cross Country Team who won for the second time the Inter-Squadron Cross Country Trophy. Lance-Corporal Chris Burr holding the trophy was the first runner home
Left to right: Signalman Bird, Lance-Corporal Hodgson, Corporal Cray, Signalman Wilson
Front row: Signalman Lister, Lance-Corporal Burr, Staff-Sergeant Harding and Signalman Burns

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

REPORT ON EXERCISE 'BITTER BREATH 6'

By Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. Gardner

THE Navy calls it a 'Lark,' the Army a 'Swan,' the Air Force a 'Jolly.' Call it what you will, a small detachment from 14th Signal Regiment filled the role of observers/liaison team during the Exercise 'Bitter Breath 6' in Singapore for the first three weeks in November.

Quite an affinity has grown up between 2 Squadron, 14th Signal Regiment, and Long-Range Communications Flight, 38 GP SU, R.A.F. Tangmere, whose exercise it was, for the reasons that:

We both utilise the same equipment, Army SR E21/R241, R.A.F. TGRI (AT) 26023, and between the two of us we should eventually find out how the equipment works.

The detachment was invited to observe during Phase 1 of the exercise to Gan, Phase 2 to Cyprus, and to liaise during Phase 3 when communications would be established for the first time over any distance between two similar stations, 2 Squadron providing the other at Worcester, some 7,000 miles distant.

The detachment consisted of **Sergeants Phil Vince** and **Bernie Perrin, Corporals Vince McGarry** and **Dave Tankard,** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Jack Gardner.** We were later joined by our O.C., **Major R. A. F. Reynolds.** The best method, we thought, of observing and liaising was to offer our services on shift. This was gladly accepted and it was nice to see how well we all knitted in together so quickly.

The first two Phases went quite well, notwithstanding our share of equipment failure, and communication times bear comparison with the Static DCN terminals. But it was Phase 3, not unnaturally, that held our interest.

Earlier this year 2 Squadron had worked, with a fair measure of success, over a 7,500-mile path from British Honduras to Cyprus, but Singapore to U.K. was the longest path the R.A.F. had tried with this equipment.

If this ever gets to print I would appreciate if you Radio Hams would not write telling me what you have done with 100 watts, for I refer to six-channel Telegraphy and Voice I.S.B. point-to-point communications, over 24 hours—no offence!

The start of Phase 3 was marred by an earlier generator fault at the U.K. end for 40 minutes but, when this was repaired, up came Worcester ZBZ 5 and continued that way whilst propagation allowed.

Given longer than three days' duration of exercise this circuit could have settled down to a sixty per cent communications time expectancy.

We had a visit during Phase 3 from **Brigadier Warren,** C.S.O. FARELF, who proved not unknowledgeable of our equipment, and we soon realised that we could not get away with poetic licence in our explanation of the function of sub-equipments.

There was the odd free moment for visits, Christmas shopping, panic tans, and an educational visit to a certain well-known street in Singapore, the name of which escapes me for the moment!

1 SQUADRON

Both domestically and operationally the Squadron has been having a very busy time recently. For the second time this year we have deployed all our manned D13 stations at the same time, an achievement not to be repeated too frequently. Our station in Northern Ireland is still providing a valuable back-up to the G.P.O.'s tenuous links with Whitehall and a further report is included at the end of this somewhat lengthy introduction.

Exercise 'Beaumont'

The other two stations, one from 'B' Troop and one from 'A,' not to be out-done, deployed one in Norton Barracks and one on Benbecula to work to each other. Did no one else want to?

The station for Benbecula ('A' Troop), aback R.C.T. 10-tonners, negotiated the road to the Isles by courtesy of the Almighty and MacBraynes Ferries without mishap. Once the exercise was established, however, the 'distant end' in the Hebrides experienced horizontal rains and gale-force winds. Undeterred by this and the Gunners' misguided missiles, **Captain Tim Hallchurch,** aided by **W.O.I (F. of S.) Jim Dunlevy, Sergeant 'Andy' Jamieson** and **Sergeant Bob Bates,** managed to provide reasonable communications over the 500 windswept miles to Norton Barracks. The detachment in Norton Barracks, although being chased by **Second-Lieutenant John Ambrose** and **Sergeant Mick Cawte,** never had it so good. The main aim of the exercise, to prove the prediction charts wrong, was frustrated—they were right!

BENBECULA REPORT

By Lance-Corporal Philip Dorling and Lance-Corporal Stanley Grimmitt

Once again the silence of 'Alpha' Troop was shattered by the infamous war cry, "Check you K.D.s, we're off on exercise." Yes, this was going to be the major exercise of 1969. All the way to Benbecula which, to the uninitiated, consists of lumps of peat in a puddle called the Atlantic.

Journeying in convoy for three days, stopping overnight at Garelochhead and Fort William, we reached our destination. Casualties incurred on the journey were **Sergeant Bates** (petrol fumes), **Lance-Corporal Vino Dorling, Signalman 'Taff' Pennington** and **Lance-Corporal Grimmitt** (mal de mer).

Having been shown the exercise site, arranged by kind permission of 632 Troop, we started by trying to establish the RX complex. PE tests were practised for the second time this year and PT was improvised by humping large pieces of derelict building (relics of past efforts on this spot). Also 70 m.p.h. gales gave excellent training and at one stage a 160lb. tent was seen being pursued by six gesticulating Signallers and they eventually disappeared over the horizon (we still have no idea where to forward mail). A bedouin encampment finally emerged, cunningly disguised as a D13 station. It was later fondly referred to as 'Kibbutz Hallchurch.'

Communications started the next day and, during the remainder of the exercise were very good. The only mistakes made were by the distant end (of course)! The routine of the exercise was broken only by the antics of the Troop's 'Big White Hunter' whose greatest trophy was the Land Rover (see Magic Roundabout Report). A bit of hair-pulling occurred when a rather large and hairy herd of Highland beasties wandered into the transmitter site. **Lance-Corporal Dorling** stood aghast as one indolent beast decided to use one of the guy ropes as a loofah and succeeded in pulling down the 80-foot mast; no guesses as to the entry in the shift log.

The journey back seemed a lot better, possibly due to the fact that it only took two days and we were all back in Worcester by 5 p.m. on the Friday.

Through to Ajax (near Canary Islands) and Malta

Immediately following this exercise, called 'Beaumont,' the 'B' Troop detachment switched to work to H.M.S. *Ajax* somewhere near the Canary Islands. This again worked well.

Five days' rest and we were deployed again working to Malta; just to keep our hands in. In the exercise, grandiosely called 'Monarch,' we were lucky to have **Signalman Bonelle, Signalman McKenzie** and **Signalman Holbrook,** from 30th Signal Regiment, to run our comcen cabin. Incidentally, they would normally come with us if deployed on Spearhead operations.

Still in N. Ireland (and never a leprechaun in sight)

Assuming they survive the censor, these notes will appear during the festive season. We take this opportunity of wishing all WIRE readers all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Though in Northern Ireland at present we have every hope of returning to base in time for Christmas.

As I write, the new secure comcen, which we had more than a hand in building, has been taken into use by 233 Signal Squadron personnel, and has settled down to its job with no teething troubles worthy of note. Some of the traffic staff are even prepared to admit that it's an improvement on their old layout.

Turning to the job that brought us here, our radio rear link continues to set new records for an air portable station. It has been in operation non-stop for 11 weeks and is still going strong, the only departure from our usual deployment being the use of mains electricity instead of generators.

Of the original workers, **Sergeant Paul Lamb, Corporal Vic Sobey, Corporal Reg Wye** and **Corporal Bruce Casburn** have all returned to Worcester, their places being taken by 233 Signal Squadron personnel, who will utimately have a similar station of their own to run.

On the sporting front, 233 Squadron (who's writing their notes, anyway?) no doubt have their reasons for asking **Sergeant Roy Evers** and **Lance-Corporal Ken Cowsill** to play soccer for them, though the latter confesses he's never let in so many goals in his life.

Finally, our congratulations and good wishes to **Corporal 'Paddy' Crawford,** who left us (and the Land of his Fathers) to keep a wedding date in Gloucester on 25th October. Cheers!

The Nineteenth go wild

By Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Thursby-Pelham

IN October the 19th Signal Regiment travelled up to Mersing on the east coast of Johore to enjoy eleven days' camping and outdoor life. The main idea was to take people out of the rut of daily life in Singapore and introduce them to the Far East's more rugged spots. We wanted to cultivate leadership qualities, to learn about local terrain, in particular the jungle, and also to have a lot of fun.

The 'friendly' jungle

We started off fairly gently teaching orienteering through the local rubber plantations, building our own battle course and doing a seven-mile hike along road and beach. We were treated to a display of tracker dogs and then tested their skills for ourselves by pursuing each other through rubber and jungle armed with one dog per twenty men or so. Since we could not escape in this country we were determined not to try it over the Moor should we ever fall upon hard times later on! Next we learnt about how the 'friendly' jungle ('Hutan Baik' was the name of the camp) could keep us in food and water, if only we were trained to look. Then, we went in and looked and came out two hours later with over 40 different edibles and some that were not!

On the Sunday we crossed eight miles of water to the neighbouring islands in a fleet consisting of one LST, one air/sea rescue launch, six assault craft and six canoes, not to mention rubber dinghies to use as bathing platforms on the other side. We were subjected to boat stations on the way across with the Captain (an R.C.T. subaltern), dressed in an S.D. hat and green bathing shorts, inspecting us. Our return, armed with sea shells, coral and sunburn, was somewhat marred by a long wade ashore from the LST. One or two braved choppy seas in canoes but all overturned before reaching shore.

A tough day—and those leeches!

The following day was most unpleasant, except in retrospect, and we walked up hill and down dale along jungle tracks in blistering heat, through secondary jungle in a tropical downpour and eventually up to the top of a mountain ridge. There we decided to take a short cut and the next few hours were hard indeed, particularly slipping and sliding down a near vertical slope. Every muscle in my body screamed for mercy and I wished I had stayed at camp for essential administrative reasons. For about a mile going down hill I took the lead, not to demonstrate my unquestioned capacity but to avoid being suffocated by the slipping and sliding mass of humanity behind me. My first experience was to tread on a young alligator, or so it seemed to me, before I realised that it was a harmless but 'ginormous' iguana (lizard to you). But there was another penalty for intrepid leadership which I discovered back in camp when, faint from loss of blood, I took off my jungle boots to discover four bloody great leeches (literally) feasting off ME. Having tortured them to death with the aid of a cigarette and my flame-throwing lighter, I then killed six others in my boots who, having crawled through the eyelets, were making to join the party. The lesson I learnt is not to lead through the jungle when in single file. Send someone junior and preferably fat. My only consolation was that O.C. 2 Squadron (**Major F. V. B. Philp**) had some nasty bites in the crutch and that **Second-Lieutenant A. T. B. Kimber,** who had dreamed up the whole horrible seven-hour pilgrimage, had his in the stomach. Neither did it restore our morale, returning with stories of unexampled heroism, to be told that the camp staff had caught a black cobra and a baby scorpion alive in the Officers' and Seniors' tent. I ordered their immediate death and overheard a whisper that that was the obvious place for them to be found since birds of a feather, etc.

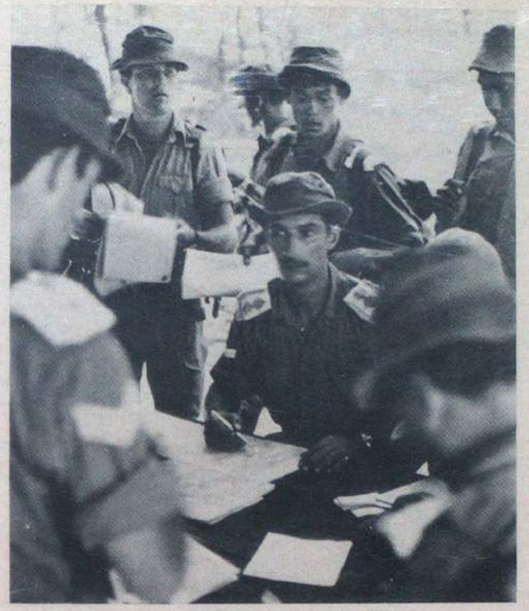
Tuesday we spent a quiet day on the battle course and submitting to W.O.S.B. tests like crossing two piranha-filled rivers with ten men, an oil drum, two poles and a piece of string whilst the pursuing Turkish cavalry were only 15 minutes away. One person remarked that it would be a pleasure to be nibbled to death or cut to pieces but he wished it had happened two days previously.

Ruthless 'Megalomaniacs'

Wednesday was a very good day without rain at all. Two opposing sides were picked. Fifty 'Dipsomaniacs,' under **Colonel (Corporal) Clarke,** had escaped from a Mersing jail and, splitting up into parties of four or five, were heading south to a rendezvous with resistance workers.

The 'Megalomaniacs,' under **Colonel General (Corporal) D'Anastasi,** had placed their headquarters astride their route and were patrolling to the north to recapture the 'Dipsomaniac' escapees and, if possible, to find out the location of the resistance rendezvous. **D'Anastasi** appointed a political commissar **(Lance-Corporal) Ronnie Kuen,** as his intelligence officer and gave him the task of interrogating any prisoners captured. I had briefed the 'Megalomaniacs' that they were utterly ruthless people who would stop at nothing to get what they wanted and the 'Dipsomaniacs' knew about this too! Little did I dream how ruthless they were to become. Later in the day some 22 prisoners were taken in the rubber plantations and marched back for interrogation. **Ronnie Keun** had by this time gathered together another helper, who was a true 'Megalomaniac,' and prisoners were subjected to a most ferocious welcome. I had recommended a grim welcome and instant interrogation, using subtlety in preference to brutality, but clearly the 'Megalomaniacs' had read too many war books! Prisoners were stripped to the waist and laid across oil drums in the sun; they were put inside the drum which was then beaten with rods ("I have at last discovered a cure for my Singapore ear," said **Corporal Probart**); they were made to hold logs in front of them. Ropes

THE ULTIMATE IN REFINED TORTURE!
Corporal Probart and Lance-Corporal Fountain in the hands of the ruthless Megalomaniacs



SCENE AT MEGALOMANIAC H.Q.
Colonel General D'Anastasi briefs his staff. Behind him Signalman Ayres, Signalman Pua and Lance-Corporal Ronnie Kuen (Intelligence Officer)

were thrown over branches of trees and attached to the wrists; a tug on the rope when hands were held above the head was a powerful persuader. I watched the proceedings from a convenient distance and privately hoped that no one was taking photographs for the popular press. No one seemed to be complaining and it was not until two days later that I was shown rope burns on three people's wrists! It is of this quality that British and L.E.P. soldiers are made and we are lucky that it is. Well, the remainder of the 'Dipsomaniacs' got through to their rendezvous and were suitably armed. The 'Megalomaniacs,' thinking that they had found out the grid reference of the RV, went off to attack a piece of unoccupied rubber plantation and returned to find that the enemy were in possession of their H.Q. and had been busy torturing their torturers. A battle royal ensued and the exercise ended.

On Thursday morning we struck camp and two men succumbed to heat exhaustion through working too hard (not sarcastic but really). In the afternoon we set off for a night in the jungle and pretended to be infantrymen with defensive perimeters, stand-to's, etc. The following morning there was the most realistic battle when one camp made a jungle attack on the other with masses of blank, thunder flashes, rocket flares, coloured smoke grenades and even Chinese crackers to boot. I can still see one defender, out of ammunition, shouting 'bang bang' at the oncoming foe.

Nice to be back—in retrospect

Of course this is 1969 and back in camp we enjoyed colour movies, quiz competitions and our own camp concert, not to mention a camp fire sing-song. The food was not bad and in retrospect, I said in retrospect mind you, a good time was had by all. There were some 140 people at camp; these comprised British, Malays, Chinese and Indians. Each took his turn in leading some part of the training so I think we attained our object. But it is lovely to be back here in civilised Singapore.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?

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

THIS month we have been visited by a never-ending stream of people—dignitaries of the churches, of the R.A.O.B., most of 6 Brigade staging through Laarbruch, all the staff of Rhine Area on a 'let's-find-out-about-21st-Signal-Regiment-and-the-Royal-Air-Force' tour, the new Staff Paymaster and the C.O. of 8th Signal Regiment, not to mention our S.O.-in-C.!

We have bid goodbye to **Group Captain R. B. Roach, D.F.C.,** and welcomed our new Station Commander, **Group Captain J. G. G. Beddows.**

As part of R.A.F. Laarbruch we have received with them the Sir Robert Foster Trophy for the third year in succession, the sixth time this sporting trophy has been won by the station and a record in the Royal Air Force, also, as part of the station, we have taken part in the Remembrance Day Parade at the Reichswald Cemetery.

Finally, we have continued to run both a Lineman and a Driver upgrading course and have toiled away at the projects on our airfields.

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

This month we were honoured with a visit by **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and his wife. We were delighted to have the opportunity of bringing our ex-C.S.O. up to date with the latest developments in the Regiment and showed him our newly formed 1 Squadron, now firmly entrenched with the radio relay for R.A.F.G., and the projects at R.A.F. Bruggen being carried out by 'H' Troop in preparation for the arrival of their new aircraft.

The S.O.-in-C. had a very busy visit and on leaving us expressed his pleasure in seeing the Regiment meeting the new challenges with such confidence and excellent spirit.

Cross-country — overwhelming victories

The cross-country team have started their season with three overwhelming victories in the Rhine Area league. **Corporals George Holden, Pete Dring** and **Graham Campbell** have filled the first three places in each meeting so far; our last man has not been worse than 22nd and that in the first race.

The outstanding individual performance was a phenomenal 26 minutes 4 seconds for the five-and-a-half-mile Laarbruch course by **Pete Dring,** but **George Holden** had a bruised foot that day and we are still not sure who is the best. We shall not know for some time either, because the trio have now developed the habit of breaking the field and then running in together. **Fred Roissetter, Keith Woodford** and **Dave Innes** are making great progress and they are very happy that they can now catch a glimpse of the first three shirts at the finish, which is more than most of the field.

The new boys

As readers of the August/September edition of THE WIRE will have read, 1 Squadron was officially 'born' on 1st June this year at R.A.F. Wildenrath. Since that date we have been busy growing in strength and learning our new role of operating the R.A.F. Germany RR system. In fact we are not yet fully in the chair and do not officially assume responsibility for the whole system for another month, on 1st January, 1970. However, our various detachments are all well established and busily engaged in a final polish of their skills before takeover day.

In addition to our growing pains, we have, however, found time to recruit **S.S.M. Dennis Sparrow's** son, **Kevin,** into the Junior Leaders' Parachute Regiment; take part in the H.Q., R.A.F. Germany autumn exercise, 'Rum Punch,' and be briefly visited, in turn, by the Representative Colonel Commandant, C.S.O. B.A.O.R. and the S.O.-in-C.

Next month we hope to report on our takeover from 11th Signal Unit, R.A.F., and to tell you something of a saga from the frozen south—to wit, our detachment down in the Eifel Mountains, who are savouring the delights of a German winter at 2,000ft. above sea level.

Following Dad's footsteps

Not to be outdone, 2 Squadron have just let us know that **Garry Lee,** the son of **Staff Sergeant Stan Lee,** their S.Q.M.S., has just signed on to go to Harrogate to be trained as a technician, we wish him every success.

'H' TROOP

Unlike that other Troop, a few months ago, who advertised in these columns that they were the greatest, this Troop has for some time believed that as a high quality 'product,' we did not need to advertise—like Rolls Royce, our fame passed by word of mouth.

So many of our former comrades are now spread around the world that in response to requests from them for news, we hope we can persuade our 'Regimental writer' to allow us into print. (Writer note: At last!).

New control tower comms. click in

In the early part of the year we watched a new Air Traffic Control Tower gradually taking shape. At 16.00 hours on Friday, 28th February, R.A.F. Bruggen ceased to operate on its old facility of a 'local' tower in the centre of the airfield and its 'approach' tower in a wooden hut on the side of the airfield. The aim was to move all communications into the new tower to commence flying on Monday morning, 3rd March. In the event, all our plans 'clicked' and the operation was finished by Saturday evening. We are proud of the result, which we unashamedly show off to our visitors.

A cup is won

The next challenge—in early April—was a sporting one, the Regimental Inter-Troop Soccer Cup, which had been held in Laarbruch for several years. Intense preparation in spare time and at weekends by **Sergeant Michael Teague** (now Staff Sergeant) and his team, combined with spirited play on the day carried off the cup in fine style in a 4—0 win over the combined M.T. and L.A.D. teams.

Flying upside down

Finally, to close our notes at the end of this busy and exciting period, our Troop Commander flew with the Red Arrows aerobatic team during a show here on 2nd August, and now he claims to be the only troop commander to have inspected the top of a test point flying upside down during a 'hesitation roll' at around 600 miles per hour. He is now the proud possessor of a Red Arrows' tie, and is trying to get his hair to lie down flat again.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

DURING November there have been a wide variety of activities on which to report. We continue to maintain troops and detachments in Anguilla, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Libya, Northern Ireland and one soldier with the Sappers in Ethiopia. At the time of publication we can add to this long list four officers and 100 soldiers in Norway.

The Ace Mobile Force (Land) Radio Troop

As part of new U.K. commitments to N.A.T.O. we have now formed the Force Radio Troop to serve Headquarters Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land). H.Q. A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop is as impressive as the title. It is superbly equipped with winterised ¾-ton Land Rovers, the most up-to-date S.S.B. radio, a full scale of winter clothing/equipment for its Arctic role and over eighty professionals—Royal Signals N.C.O.s and soldiers.

Exercise 'Deep Freeze'

This proved to be a well-chosen title and for a week the weather was at zero level temperatures during the Regimental exercise at Okehampton, Bovington and Tidworth. The A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop detachments and the U.K. Battalion R.L.S.D. were given a thorough test of their capability to work radio over extended ranges for both HF SSB and VHF, with the remainder of the Regiment providing representative DC and Battalion rear links. During the exercise we were visited by the Group Commander, **Colonel E. J. Winn. W.O.I (Y. of S.) Tom Johnstone** played his final role of 'enemy' for us and his imaginative flair for training will be well remembered, not least by the A.M.F.(L) Force Troop rebroadcast detachments. **Y. of S. Johnstone** leaves us in January for 32nd Regiment (V) and we offer our congratulations on being awarded a commission.

After returning from Exercise 'Deep Freeze' the A.M.F.(L) Radio Troops and the Spearhead detachments were inspected at Blandford by C.S.O. Army Strategic Command, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.**

Visit of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe

On 11th December the Regiment was honoured by a visit by **General Sir Robert Bray, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O.,** Deputy SACEUR, SHAPE, accompanied by C.S.O. Army Strategic Command. After a visit to the Regimental mounting centre and a briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose,** the visitors were given a demonstration layout of the A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop and the U.K. Battalion R.L.S.D. **General Sir Robert Bray** and **Brigadier Proudman** spent an hour talking informally to the officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers of the troops on parade. Despite the wet weather, the B.B.C. television were able to give excellent coverage of the occasion.

Recruiting

During recent weeks the Regiment have been involved in two recruiting activities in conjunction with the School of Signals. The first event was the Ideal Home Exhibition at Bournemouth, with static displays from 1 and 2 Squadrons under the direction of **Sergeant Ken Griffiths.** The A.C.I.O.s recorded 62 enquiries as a result of this ten-day effort. More recently 1 (640) Squadron provided detachments for the Symposium of Headmasters at the School of Signals.

Visit to Burys Court School, Reigate

As part of the initial work-up for the testing of AMF(L) Force Radio Troop radio, several C11 SSB detachments, together with a D11 from 1 (640) Squadron visited the school for three days and worked voice links to Blandford. The boys watched the detachments at work, and during the evening were given film shows and demonstrations. The visit was a great success, and at the close the whole school lined the drive and applauded the detachments as they departed to return to Blandford.

The Globetrotters

Although there is a temporary reduction in 1 (640) Squadron strength, there has been a very full programme of the Inter-Service JOCOMEX exercises. A very successful two-day exercise was held with H.M.S. *Mercury*, when the operators of our D11s exchanged places with ratings from H.M.S. *Mercury* and the mixed detachment joined in the exercise with a circuit from Winchester. Exercises have also been held with H.M.S. *Bulwark*, off Gibraltar, and 38 Group at R.A.F. Tangmere. The comcen operators of 2 Squadron are now taking part in 14th Signal Regiment rear link exercises as a regular feature of these activities.

Arrivals and departures

After four years with the Regiment, we sadly record the departure of **Captain Jack Crich,** to whom we offer our grateful thanks for all his splendid work, which started originally with 640 Signal Troop. We are pleased to welcome back **Captain Don White,** and during this month we have the return of **Captain John Williams,** who will be replaced in 644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP) by **Captain Jonathan Cox.** We hope that all members of 661 Signal Troop (Ship) enjoy their stay in Blandford prior to joining H.M.S. *Intrepid* in the New Year.

Endpiece

Congratulations to **Signalman John Richardson** for his success at the Combined Services Chess Tournament. He was second in the Army Championship, only being beaten in the final.

(*See pictures on page* 29)

Visit of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, to 30th Signal Regiment

(1) Lieutenant Bob Baynes explains some of the potentialities of the Volvo Toolkit to General Sir Robert Bray, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., Deputy Saceur Shape, and Brigadier Proudman. In the photo also Major Cross and Captain Payne, Adjutant

(2) Sergeant Cliff Coultish and Corporal Bob Geddes find General Bray particularly interested in the full scale winter/clothing equipment—suitable even for an arctic role

(3) The Commanding Officer of 30th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose, explains the layout of the A.M.F.(L) Troop as they parade before the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander

(4) In lighter vein—Sergeant Bill Hartland would have no further recruiting worries if he could be always partnered by Miss Bournemouth—photo taken at the Ideal Homes Exhibition

Royal Signals 50th Anniversary 1970 Celebrations

Unique offer to all Philatelists

There will be a special issue of a Royal Signals One-Day Cover to commemorate the 50th Anniversary in 1970.

Advance Details

The cover will be a professionally designed envelope with an appropriate commemorative motif bearing the 9d. Telecommunications Stamp issued by G.P.O. (1st October, 1969).

The stamp will be cancelled by a specially designed handstamp dated 28th June, 1970, together with a B.F.P.O. number allotted to the Corps for this unique occasion.

Price

This will be 5/- per completely serviced cover.

Profits

All profits are to be devoted to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

Order Forms

These will be published in the next three issues of THE WIRE and will also be available in all Unit Orderly Rooms early 1970.

Insert

Inside the envelope will be a short history of the Corps and facsimiles of the two Royal Warrants issued in connection with the formation of Royal Signals, bearing the signatures of King George V and Winston S. Churchill.

Northag Air Support Radio Squadron B.F.P.O. 18

1969 REVIEW

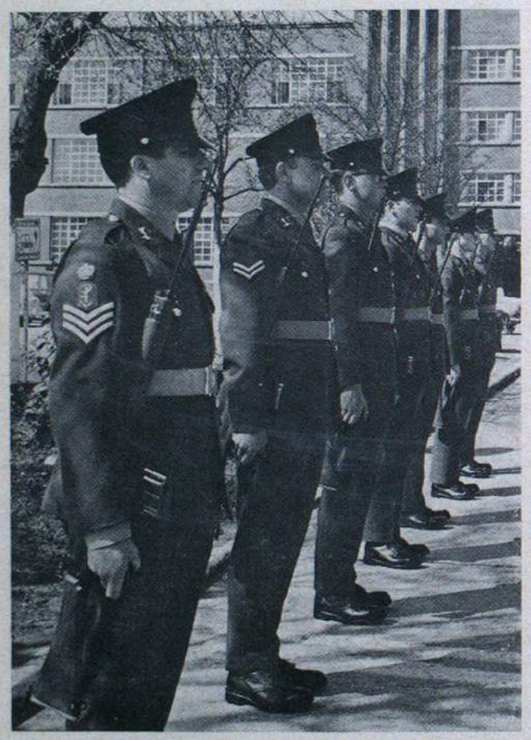
AS we do not regularly submit articles to THE WIRE, preferring an annual review to a series of short articles, we begin this article with an introductory note.

Introduction

We are a multi-national Squadron with a fairly equal representation of Belgian, British and Netherlands soldiers, with perhaps a German element joining in the near future. The Squadron is located in the small, historic town of Tongeren in Belgium, only a short distance from the Netherlands frontier. Tongeren is in fact the oldest town in Belgium. It was in this area, under the leadership of Ambiorix in 54 B.C., that the Belgic tribes fought together for the first time to meet a common enemy: Julius Caesar. Our Belgian soldiers claim that Caesar described these tribes as being the bravest fighters he encountered, a provocative statement which usually results in Royal Signals soldiers leaping onto soap boxes to give interesting accounts of the valiant deeds of their ancestors.

Co-operation and Communication

This combination of soldiers of different nationalities in a single NORTHAG unit is unique. We seriously claim that nowhere in N.A.T.O. will you see different nationalities working together with better mutual co-operation and understanding. Royal Signals soldiers have the great advantage that English is the accepted common language. We have much respect for the other nationalities for their ability to improve so quickly on a basic school knowledge. Indeed, the pronunciation and grammar of some is of such a creditable standard that one north country soldier is alleged to be taking elocution lessons, and was recently heard reciting: "The rain in Spain falls mainly in the plain," in a corner of the garages. It was once noticeable that a junior N.C.O. of Scottish descent always used a particularly broad accent when explaining to our Netherlands Sergeant Major the reason for his not having done something which he ought to have done—that was until he received a 'broadside' from the Sergeant Major in his own accent!



CLOSE RIVALRY EXISTS TO PRESENT THE SMARTEST TURNOUT

There are many nationalities which make-up Northag Air Support Radio Squadron—and Royal Signals are always ready to meet the challenge. Here Corps men are mounting a smart Squadron Quarter Guard

National Service

A further interesting aspect of the Squadron is that we have a National Service element — not some unfortunate British soldier still awaiting demob papers, but Belgian and Netherlands radio operators whose countries still retain such conscription. It is most refreshing to have these young men in the Squadron. Between them there is an enormous wealth of talent: engineers, linguists, mathematicians, historians, pharmacists, to mention a few. Alas, no sooner are they trained to professional soldier operating standards than they leave.

Squadron training

We will not describe the numerous exercises in which we have been involved during the year. Suffice to say that since deploying in mid-February to provide a demonstration in connection with our annual Air Support Communications Study hardly a week has passed without our being involved in some national or international exercise. In June we proceeded to a summer camp at Elsenborn, close to that part of the German border from which the German 6th S.S. Panzer Army emerged in December, 1944, to lead Hitler's futile counter offensive. In this attractive Ardennes forest the Squadron became infantrymen for a fortnight; P.T. before breakfast was followed by the preparation of defence positions, patrolling, evasion exercises, weapon training, marches, orienteering and map-reading exercises, potted sports competitions, cross-country driving, obstacle competitions and sport. 'Postings-in' are warned that the Squadron Commander believes that the best way to teach a soldier to have faith in his compass is to launch him at night across an area of swampland at almost 2,000 feet, in thick mist! Special mention must be made of **Lance-Corporal Birkenshaw** who won both orienteering competitions, over very stiff 10-kilometre courses.

WE DO NOT PICK SELECTED GLADIATORS . . .

Anyone who can walk is in the Rheindahlen Allied Marches. And it is a pretty tough exercise as (*left to right*): Lance-Corporal Gardner, Sergeant Garside and Sergeant Guy can tell you, while they take a rest to get their second wind

Summer Camp was followed by hurried preparation for the 2 A.T.A.F. major live-flying Exercise 'Sky Blue,' when it rained incessantly, followed by the Rheindahlen Marches. We are proud of the fact that every soldier in the Squadron participated in these marches, except for a few medically excused. How often does one see a team of specially selected 'gladiators' participating in these events, with those of less sturdy physique ignored? Following some 130 kilometres of training marches the actual course was completed with comparative ease, and it was rewarding to see the smiles of triumph on the faces of those soldiers from a town environment who had never believed that they could accomplish a march of this type. Following summer leave we have participated in a multitude of autumn exercises and are now engaged in a winter training programme, largely directed to training our new intake of National Service soldiers. During the winter period a number of interesting general knowledge visits are being arranged, including a visit to the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre, the well-known arms manufacturers who produce the F.N. rifle.

Who's Who

In case any reader is looking for old friends (or enemies?), here is our 'Rogues Gallery,' including 641 Troop Royal Signals whom we administer:

Major Frank Pedley, seems to like marching! **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Tom Brown,** arrived September; already persuaded to produce the next Station play. **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Gus Gurr,** now with 7th Signal Regiment; hope you don't fall off your bike! **Staff Sergeant Joe Farmer,** still enjoys a good drill period. **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Bob Scriven,** our 'Super System Sorter-outer.' **Sergeant Mike Jones,** types in four languages (except English). **Sergeant Barry Ibbotson,** arrived November. **Sergeant George Garside,** now with the White Helmets. **Sergeant Dave Hambridge,** the original Maastricht Troll? **Sergeant 'Tat' Taylor,** complains of the cold without his moustache. **Sergeant Dave Guy,** one of the 'likely lads' selected for the next Y. of S. course.

Marriages

We wish every happiness to **Lance-Corporal Montgomery** and **Signalman Burns** (now with 5th Infantry Brigade) and their Belgian brides. It seems fashionable for our British soldiers to marry the very attractive Belgian girls, and there is strong rumour that two more may be taking the plunge early in 1970.

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

DUE to the inability of the G.P.O. to deliver letters in under a week, we missed the December issue of THE WIRE. However, what follows will, it is hoped, more than make up for our public's disappointment.

October and November have passed rapidly, mainly due to the amount of time we have been away, and activities back at Colchester. October featured numerous day and night deployment exercises designed to remind our well-trained Brigade staff how we like to see things done; these exercises being a work-up for a CPX, which is commented on below. Also during October, we were visited by **Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin,** our G.O.C., who was suitably 'baffled' by the 'Whiz Kids' of 'A' and 'M' Troops. We also have a non-event to record, and that is a visit, or rather, several attempts to visit us, by the C.S.O., Strategic Command, **Brigadier**

(*Continued on page* 32)

The AUSTRALIAN ARMY needs officers

For the Combatant Arms and Services.

Service as Lieutenant, Captain or Major in the British Army could qualify you for a short service or permanent commission with the Australian Regular Army. Desirable maximum age limit is 32 years (42 years with special qualifications).

Medical and Dental Officers for short service commissions.

If you are a medical or dental practitioner whose qualifications are registerable in the Commonwealth of Australia, we invite you to apply for a short service commission in the R.A.A.M.C. or R.A.A.D.C. Your appointment would carry the minimum rank of Captain but it is restricted to male members of the professions, preferably under the age of 40 years.

If your application is successful, you will be commissioned in the U.K. and travel to Australia with your family. You will have good pay, excellent prospects of promotion and a generous pension or gratuity scheme. You and your family can take advantage of Australia's boundless opportunities and high standard of living in the world's best climate.

For complete details call or write to:

Captain J. R. Godwin,
Australian Army Staff,
Australia House, Strand, London, WC2
01-836 2435 extension 356

(Continued from page 31)

THERE'S TALKING POINTS GALORE WHEN THE G.O.C. VISITS A UNIT

Here is Major-General T. D. H. McMeekin raising a point with Staff-Sergeant Marr, during the visit of the G.O.C. to the unit recently

Proudman. Unfortunately, bad weather or unreliable vehicles have always interfered and, at the time of writing these notes, the Squadron is encamped a mere 15 miles from Wilton, and it is hoped that this will shorten the odds sufficiently to allow the Brigadier to visit us.

November was taken up with bonfire night (see article below) a Squadron Camp to practice jungle training, which took place during an East Anglian cold spell; an MPC Course; with perhaps the most memorable event being a combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dinner night (see report below).

'J' Troop writes

Despite slight pressure from the other troops, 'J' Troop remain the best Troop in the Squadron—without realising there was an inter-Troop competition, we still managed to win it!

The high spot of October was Exercise 'Many Colours,' a Brigade CPX on Salisbury Plain. It saw the Squadron moving four times in 24 hours which, considering the Penthouses we have, is no mean feat. 'J' Troop took all this in their stride; the Comcen was going up and down faster than a yo-yo.

The Line Section laid more line than in the previous five years, and the Radio Relay Section surpassed their Troop Commander's wildest dreams of efficiency. The fact that only one message was passed was totally irrelevant!

Rumour has it that the combined 'A' and 'J' Troop football team are going to seek election to the fourth division next season. Their victory over a Company of 1 P.W.O., by 13—0, was brilliant in its conception.

Officers' and Sergeants' Dinner Night

With a view to improving the staying power of the Squadron management, prior to the Christmas festivities, and in order to bid our outgoing Q.M. (**Major Fred Pavey**) and M.T.O. (**Captain John Atkinson,** R.C.T.) a suitable farewell, it was decided to hold a combined dinner night in the Sergeants' Mess on 25th November.

The night opened quietly, with both sides on their best behaviour. However, after a superb meal—many thanks to **Sergeant Coleman**—and a short spech by the O.C., the evening warmed up. To start with, a sedate game of bowls was played, but, on the insistence of the subalterns, that activities 'get physical,' off came jackets, and both sides got stuck in to 'High Cock-a-Looram, 30-a-side rugby,' and that old Mess sport of removing everyone's trousers. To the writer's amazement, no lasting injuries occurred, although the R.S.M.'s head twice came into contact with the floor after he was dropped from a great height. It was interesting to note the skill at close quarter-fighting displayed by the Adjutant and the M.T.O.—perhaps their 'Liverpudlian' background accounts for this.

The Mess itself was the main sufferer, and it is hoped that M.P.B.W. will have things straight before the Christmas festivities, although, on reflection, it may be better to wait and repair both lots of damage at once! The evening was voted a great success by all, and it is hoped that combined mess nights will now take place at least twice a year in the future.

Arrivals and Departures

We welcome **Captain Licence** (new Q.M.), **Lieutenant Watts** (new M.T.O.), **Staff Sergeant Smith** and **Staff Sergeant Emsley, Signalmen Mansell, Hayes, Cochrane** and **Clarke,** and **Private Muir** (R.A.O.C.). We say goodbye to **Major Pavey, Captain Atkinson** (R.C.T.), **Staff Sergeants Duncan** and **Bell, Corporal Carlile** and **Moulson, Lance-Corporals Price, Portheroe** and **Lapworth.**

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

ON THE SPORTING SIDE

Signalman Ron Turaga

Signalman Ron Turaga

Ron Turaga is a familiar figure to most rugby supporters throughout the Corps and to many in the Army. Since joining from Fiji, he has certainly played a full and active part in all unit activities, both sporting and social. He is now leaving the Squadron, after some five years in Minden for a posting to Sharjah. We all wish him well.

A look into **Ron Turaga's** sporting life—proves to be very impressive. In 1961/62 he played for 8th Signal Regiment when winning the Northern Command Cup. At the same time he represented both Catterick Services, as well as Northern Command itself. Moving to B.A.O.R. in 1962, he was soon to be found playing for 2nd Division Signal Regiment, as well as 2nd Division. This resulted in touring Denmark, Holland and France.

It was not long before he was to be capped for B.A.O.R. and play against teams such as the French Army and West Germany. In 1963 he joined the Squadron whilst still playing for B.A.O.R. and now 1st Division. Since 1965 he has also been a member of the Corps team.

During the 1968/69 season he was attending a course at Catterick and played for Hull City in the Rugby League against Leigh, Halifax, Bradford Northern. So keen were the board at Hull that Ron was offered £3,000 and a house to turn professional.

On the athletics field he has also been a member of the Unit's Morrison Cup team in winning the athletic trophy for the last four years. As may be expected, he put the shot.

Signalman Vic (Pancho) Millward

Signalman Vic (Pancho) Millward

A look into the sporting life of '**Pancha**' shows he has been a loyal and keen player of the unit soccer team since coming to Minden in 1964. Since that time he has been an automatic choice for the first team through the seasons when the soccer team could match any major unit. An extremely versatile player, being able to hold a position on the field as well as in goal.

After joining the Corps in 1963, and playing for 11th Signal Regiment, he moved to Kingsley Barracks, and in 1965/66, 1966/67 played for the Squadron when winning the Divisional Championship. In 1965/66, the team also reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championship.

Although soccer is his main sporting interest, '**Pancho**' also plays cricket, basketball, as well as running in the cross-country team.

At work, he is one of our expert FV432 drivers, with many exercise miles behind him.

Continental holidays

It is always very pleasing to see the younger members of the Squadron taking full advantage of being on the Continent by spending their leave travelling around. However, when things go wrong, the 'cry' comes back to Minden for help. In the north, at present we have **Signalman Pitt** in hospital in Oslo, following an appendicitis operation. In the south, in Switzerland, we have **Signalman Tommy Slater** and **Signalman Sammy Barr** stranded after being involved in a car accident (not their fault). But just to show how the wanderers are finding their holiday in the snow, the following letter has just been received from **Tommy Slater.**

* * *

Sir,

We arrived O.K. in Switzerland, but would you believe we had an accident between Lucerne and Interlaken? It happened to be snowing at the time and one of these Swiss women overtook me on a left-hand bend at the same time as another car was coming in the opposite direction. He then hit the woman a glancing blow only, but bounced straight off and collided head-on with me. **Barr** immediately took a dive through the windscreen, closely followed by his skis. This meant he needed stitching up, as he had cut his face near to his eyes and nose. He is not too bad, but the doctor is keeping him in hospital in case of an infection or something.

As you will have realised, the woman is to blame, and the police agree with me also, so shall not be involved in any Swiss type criminal proceedings.

Barr was taken immediately to hospital in Sarnen by a civvy bloke in his car. I stayed behind to answer questions for the police. Afterwards, the woman took me to her house and gave me tea—with tears! It turned out that the woman is the wife of the doctor in the hospital which **Barr** is in, which is very convenient, as I may be able to ease out of paying hospital bills.

LATER

I am now staying with the doctor's family until **Barr** is released from hospital. Our main concern is getting all our kit back to Germany. I was hoping to get a large wooden box and send it by rail, but I don't think we can afford both that and the rail fare for us.

I am writing to my insurance company to start negotiations to get cold hard cash to get us out. However, I am quite comfortably marking time at the moment. All advice gratefully accepted.

Your obedient, housebound, wheel-less servant,

Swiss Signalman Slater

Ferry your car home for half-price?

This is an important offer – specially introduced for HM Forces in BAOR and attached civilian personnel. Between Oct 1 and May 31, North Sea Ferries take your car from Rotterdam (Europoort) to Hull (and back) at *half price.*

It's a convenient drive-on-drive-off service too – operating at night, so you get a comfortable night's sleep en route. All service passengers get 10% off their fares – even cheaper on special 8-day return excursions – and there is a comfortable berth, dinner, morning tea, and full breakfast included in the fare plus 3 bars, duty free shop, colour T.V., even a juke box. Drive off next day at Hull and you're home. There's no fuss, no time wasted and no extras – everything's included in the price.

From £9.8.6. single with your car–from £7.8.6. single with cabin berth only.

NORTH SEA FERRIES

ROTTERDAM (EUROPOORT)—HULL NIGHTLY

Sounds sensible. Send me some information in full colour.

Name_____

Address_____

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North Sea Ferries, Dept. TWR3, Hedon Road, Hull.

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
Tangmere, Sussex

FOR the first time in our eleven months of existence we have had a comparatively quiet couple of weeks, which affords the opportunity to highlight, this month, a few of the backroom boys of the Squadron, boys who carry out the less spectacular jobs in the Squadron, but who supply a vital link in the Squadron set-up.

Corporal Fuller, the Documents and Movements N.C.O. in the Orderly Room, who has the unenviable task of keeping track of everyone's whereabouts as well as understudying the Chief Clerk. He continually amazes by his calm, unflappable manner and by his sheer efficiency.

Corporal Harrison, our Cipher Corporal, whose laugh is almost as infectious as the O.C.'s. In addition to solving all the Crypto problems for the R.A.F. he finds time to understudy the Pay Sergeant (no mean feat in this Unit!) and carry out the many and varied schemes of the P.R.I. to raise monies. The weekly 'ships' tombola is rapidly becoming a full-time job.

Corporal Abson, a technical storeman, who seems to have an uncanny knack of knowing everything that is going on. In addition to his normal job, complicated though it may be, he still finds time to play soccer and keep the P.R.I.s super tea-machine 'on the road.'

As in most units these days, we have a goodly share of Officers and Senior N.C.O.s. It is all the more gratifying, therefore, to see Junior N.C.O.s making a name for themselves.

As Christmas approaches we thought it would be nice to help others for a change, others who would not be as well off as we, so, having discovered a local children's home, a raffle was organised, the proceeds to go to the home. To our astonishment, the response was overwhelming with tickets being sold faster than we could stamp them, as well as gifts of toys and games rolling in. It would seem that Christianity is still alive and kicking.

Public relations is the 'in' thing these days, every post brings a reminder from one source or another that the image must be projected. To this end our P.R.O. (**Captain Ronnie Sampson**) has now obtained as practically a full-time member of the Squadron, a real live newspaper reporter from the *Portsmouth Evening News* who is ever eager to broadcast our achievements to the world at large. This he has done most successfully in local papers, a large coloured photograph of the Squadron Emplaning Team adorning the front page recently with a full-page story inside. One only hopes that the local Army Information Office is now bulging at the seams with recruits clamouring to join the Corps.

Finally, as time goes by and Christmas draws menacingly close, may we at 244 wish to all members of the Corps the merriest of Christmases and everything you wish yourselves for 1970.

252 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

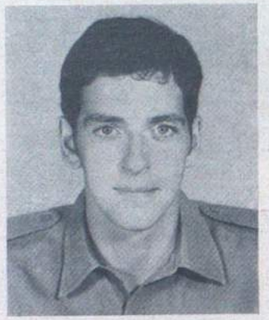
ANOTHER end-of-year report from Hong Kong, 'Pearl of the Orient.' Rather a quiet year for us, with only one typhoon, two cloudbursts, a summer camp and a couple of joint exercises to vary our regular routine. The routine includes the operation of the military telephone system on Hong Kong Island, running the communication centre and major relay centre, providing innumerable radio detachments, beating 253 Signal Squadron at swimming and trying to beat them at soccer. Although situated in the middle of one of the densest concrete jungles in the world, we find that life here has its compensations. On the material side, these come in the form of audio gear, cameras and a profusion of other luxury goods, available at prices which would make a U.K. retailer blush. Recreationally, we enjoy a good sailing and swimming season, and for the aesthete there is the local mini-skirt scene and the view from Victoria Park, both well worthy of scrutiny.

Change of Command

We have said goodbye to **Major Joe Batty** and **Mrs. Mary Batty. Major Batty,** having coped most successfully with the problems of management peculiar to this one-off place, has departed for the comparative calm of the Ministry of Defence, taking with him our thanks and good wishes. **Major Roger Hills** is now in the chair. We welcome him and his family and promise him an interesting tour.

Sportsman of the year

Prior to his departure, **Major Batty** accepted, on behalf of the unit, a most attractive trophy, presented by **Sergeant Bill Andlaw.** The trophy, to be presented annually to the best all-round sportsman in the unit, was **Sergeant Andlaw's** farewell gift to the unit before he left for U.K. He reappeared soon afterwards as **Mr. Andlaw,** to take up an appointment with the local telephone company.



Corporal Jan Jasiok, 252 Squadron Sportsman of the Year

The first winner of the Andlaw Trophy was **Corporal Jan Jasiok,** whose ability and sportsmanship were amply demonstrated on the soccer field and athletics track and in the swimming pool. One of our more knowledgeable sports spectators thought that the trophy should have been awarded on an age-handicap basis, in which case **Captain John Selby's** enthusiasm for rugby, hockey, water polo, or whatever sports he happens to be dressed for, might well have won the day.

Mini Monte Carlo

We all have our own ideas about where the world's worst drivers are to be found. Hong Kong would surely appear in most people's 'top ten'; and added here is the pedestrian, or pedestrians — there are four million of them — who with Oriental fatalism calmly go about their business of trying to get knocked down, often successfully. Our motoring enthusiasts have found motor-rallying, by comparison, quite a sedate affair, and one of our teams in the 51 Brigade night rally had little difficulty in carrying off first prize. The team leader, **Corporal Bill McKay,** has left us to go to Germany. He will find nothing new in driving on the right, many local drivers here do it all the time.

LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN CARRYING OFF 1st PRIZE
252 Squadron's Motor Rally team which won the 51st Brigade night rally competition
Left to right: Corporal Stania, Lance-Corporal Mee, Lance-Corporal Martin, Corporal McKay, Corporal Teanby and Signalman Wooff

Personality spot

The cable network in Hong Kong is as complicated as a game of Mah Jong. Local knowledge is a valuable asset, and we are fortunate to have on our strength as our foreman lineman, **Mr. Chan Tong,** whose service with Royal Signals dates back to 1932. Mr. Chan's pith helmet is a familiar sight in Victoria Barracks, and his knowledge of the local line layout may be justly described as comprehensive. **Mr. Chan** is not the only member of the unit who can claim a pre-war acquaintance with line-laying in the Colony. Our Admin. Officer, **Major (Retd). Leslie Bainbridge,** did a similar job in 1937 as a member of the Hong Kong Signal Section.

Sports Briefs

Sergeant Tony Forrester, Sergeant Mac Fraser and **Signalman David Hartley** have been selected for the Army (Hong Kong) soccer team.

Lance-Corporal Ted Gough, Signalman Chris Wooff and **Corporal Nobby Clarke** are members of the 51 Brigade hockey team.

Captain John Selby and **Signalman Chris Wooff** and **Lance-Corporal Chung Wai Keung,** now H.K.M.S.C., represented the Army (Hong Kong) at water polo (season just finished). **Corporal Pang Fu Wah** has been selected to represent the Army (Hong Kong) at basketball.

Sergeant Val Etterley is currently ranked No. 3 in the Colony in the ladies' ten-pin bowling world.

Foreman Colin Smith's enthusiasm for squash has led to an outburst of activity by some of our more static communicators, who are now socking it to each other in no uncertain fashion.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

HERE in Cyprus, it is the season for change; winter is upon us, and with it comes the first change of command since the Squadron took over its radio relay role under RISTACOMM. **Major A. S. McK. Anderson** has taken over command from **Major G. J. Chitty,** who had commanded the Squadron since the last days of DCN and throughout the build-up of the first year of radio relay operation.

Most of our readers probably do not know anything of our present role, here in Cyprus. The Squadron was formed from the old DCN unit to take over the R.A.F. radio relay system under RISTACOMM. The takeover was gradual, beginning in December, 1967, and full responsibility for the system became ours in July, 1968, although a few long-suffering R.A.F. gentlemen remained with us until early 1969. The smoothness of the takeover was mainly due to the large amount of goodwill and co-operation between the two Services.

They expect us to be pleased about it!

The Cyprus RR system provides a communication ring between the Sovereign Base Areas and 'retained sites.' It consists of nine stations, spread over the length and breadth of Cyprus, each manned by a small detachment. We provide a wide variety of circuits, including, amongst others, those needed for remote operation by the Air Traffic Control Centre at Nicosia. For our sins, we took over vintage radio equipment of the Marconi 100, 300 and 500 series. PEPS assure us that it will be replaced in 1972 by a series of equipments the size of matchboxes, which will need no supervision or maintenance. This would effectively reduce the number of overseas postings in the Corps by about 50—and they expect us to be pleased about it!

The Squadron consists of SHQ and three Troops—Engineering, West and East. SHQ, Engineering and West are based in Episkopi, and the latter also look after Akrotiri and Mount Troodos and Olympus. Each Troop lives in Dhekelia, with detachments at Nicosia, Ayios Nikolaos and Cape Greco. It is intended, in the coming months to feature each Troop and detachment, in turn, in our WIRE notes.

About our sport — and sportsmen

Despite being spread all over the island, we still manage to field teams for most sports. Normally, the detachments play for their host unit, and the Episkopi element provides

(*Continued on page* 36)

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Standing: **Sergeants Maynard (261), Lowry (259), Hawley (259), McInnes (259), R.Q.M.S. Shaw (261), Staff-Sergeant Major Wheeler (261), Sergeant Hinton (259)**
Middle: **Staff-Sergeant Dacy CI Coy, O.R.Q.M.S. Hughes 3 Signal Group, Staff-Sergeant Major Johnson (259), Staff-Sergeant Edwards (259), Sergeants Anderson (259), Gore (261), W.O.I. Short (259), Staff-Sergeant Maidment (259), Sergeants Jones (259), Martin (259), Staff-Sergeant Angell (259), Sergeant Macgilp (259), W.O.II. Lanyon (259)**
Front: **Staff-Sergeant Barnett (259), Sergeants Erasito (259), Ingleby (259), Staff-Sergeant Fordham (261)**

teams under the Squadron title. Here we gratefully acknowledge the assistance from players of 261 and 262 Squadrons who play for us in part exchange. The exceptions to this are the Squadron rugby team, where players are coming from all detachments to participate, and the basketball team. In the latter case, a team from East Troop regularly travel about 120 miles to represent the Squadron in the Western SBA. During the past years **Sergeants Lowry** and **Gibson** represented the Army (Cyprus) at rugby in the successful tour of Malta, and **Staff Sergeant Angell** at hockey. **Staff Sergeant Barnett** has also been selected for the Army golf team to play against R.A.F. Cyprus.

Postings out have been very few as yet but a few stalwarts from D.C.N. days who helped form the new Squadron have left, notably **Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Howley,** who has returned to his native Ireland. **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Johnson** has gone as R.S.M. with the T.A.V.R. in Sheffield, **Staff Sergeant (Buck) Angell,** complete with boomerang, to civilian life in Australia, and **Sergeant Martin** to B.A.O.R.

Watch this space for our further doings during the months to come. See how the other half live!

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53

AIRFIELD SIGNAL TROOP SAY 'GOODBYE' TO THE STATION COMMANDER

Air Commodore D. A. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F. with OC Airfield Signal Troop R.A.F. Akrotiri, and Troop representatives after the presentation
From left to right: Signalman Glynne Denton, Signalman Fred Wright, Lance-Corporal Tom Hickey, Staff-Sergeant Tony Bermingham, the Air Commodore, Captain Tony Gatward, Sergeant John Sells and Corporal Dave Osborne

ON 1st December, the Troop Commander and a representative body of N.C.O.s and men presented an engraved Royal Signals plaque to the Station Commander, R.A.F. Akrotiri, **Air-Commodore D. A. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C.,** on behalf of all ranks of the Troop.

The presentation marked the departure of the Station Commander from Akrotiri, prior to taking up an appointment in the U.K. Akrotiri is now the largest operational station in the Royal Air Force.

The 'build-up' over the last 18 months resulted in an abnormal workload on the Airfield Signal Troop, especially during the bad weather conditions last winter.

Our task was made easier by the patience, understanding, and personal interest shown by the Air Commodore who, at times, had difficulty in recognising our soldiers through their coating of mud.

We recently said farewell to **Sergeant Pete Gorman** and family, posted to 2 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment; **Sergeant John Phillips** and family to 30th Signal Regiment; and **Sergeant Ron Warren** to 21st Signal Regiment.

No doubt **Sergeant Warren** will appreciate the change. Instead of thrashing around in cable pits and other odd holes in the ground, he can now 'blast-off' with a sand iron from all the 'traps' of the golf courses of Bruggen and Laarbruch!

Recent new arrivals to the Troop are **Sergeant Terry Skinner, Sergeant Eric Williams** and **Lance-Corporal Vic Buttery,** all with their families.

The joys and hazards of the cable-entwined peninsula at Akrotiri await them. We wish them well.

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

SO many management changes have taken place in the Squadron recently that much of our space is devoted to 'hail and farewell,' followed by brief notes on the remaining main activities.

LOOKING OUT OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN . . .

The forward scatter antennas pointing out over the Mediterranean, with the mast carrying the 259 Signal Squadron radio relay antenna in the foreground

Farewells

It is with some regret that for the last time I 'vet' the Squadron notes collated by **Captain Jenny Bunyan,** our long-suffering scribe - cum - P.R. expert - cum - O.C. W.R.A.C.-cum-liaison expert, who shortly leaves for a more peaceful post in England. She has always worked wholeheartedly for the benefit of the Squadron, and we shall miss her good humour and cheerful acceptance of every imaginable task. We have also just said farewell to **Captain 'Jock' Reid,** who has relinquished command of an efficient comcen (not to mention a strange post euphemistically entitled 'S.O. 3 COMSEC'), and has gone to impose a completely unshakeable calm on yet another corner of England. **Sergeant Ben Lawson** is bound for Blandford and the School, where he clearly intends to become a first-class Foreman of Signals as quickly as possible in order to get back to the really serious business of converting the heathen in matters both technical and sporting. **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Brian Appleby** has already disappeared to a somewhat more active part of the world, and we are awaiting his first communication from the 'front' with bated breath.

To all of you, and your families (**Jenny's** excepted!) our thanks for your support and very best wishes for the future.

Greetings

Fortunately we were able to throw our new arrivals straight into the deep end in preparing for the Fitness for Role (F.F.R.) Inspection, so explanations and introductions were brief and to the point. **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Terry Martin** has spent a month patrolling the Squadron lines with ever-increasing rapidity — so much so that he frequently flew off at tangents to Mt. Olympus and Cape Greco, to the astonishment and consternation of the residents. **Captain Terry O'Toole** arrived (to take over the comcen and 'S.O. 3 COMSEC') with raised eyebrows, a baffling sheaf of car import forms, hair-raising stories about customs, wharfage and unscheduled diversions, and a cynical

disbelief that anyone could remain sane anywhere south and east of B.A.O.R. Having waved his 7th Signal Regiment Old Comrades' flag once or twice he was welcomed by all the other old lags, and their welcome may even help him to survive the shock of coping with certain Cyprus operating peculiarities. Finally, welcome to our new O.C. W.R.A.C., **Captain Liz Poole.** She has not actually signed the hand/takeover certificate yet, but we're hoping that the combined blandishments of **Jenny,** the O.C. and Second-in-Command will dispel the utter disbelief with which she currently regards her new appointment. Last, but not least, we welcome our Second-in-Command, **Captain Alan de Bretton Gordon.** Although he's been on the posted strength for well over a year, he has been somewhat preoccupied of late with 'nuclear dispersion,' 'cordon and search' and 'judges rules' and has only just returned to normal—for which blessing, heartfelt thanks all round.

Twice in seven months!

Due to the NEARELF system of organising F.F.R. inspections seasonally, we have achieved a near record in having two in the space of seven months—hastening to add that the cause is purely administrative, NOT disciplinary. **Brigadier R. C. Windsor Clive,** Commander Dhekelia Area, carried out the inspection, appropriately accompanied by **Captain Jenny Barker,** W.R.A.C. (Signal trained), his Staff Captain 'Q.'

Belt and braces

As well as touring the Squadron lines we invited the Brigadier to visit our F.S.S. Cape Greco. To the Squadron Commander's horror, at the last minute the planned helicopter lift was declared to be unavailable—and telephone communications were also subject to temporary failure! However, as well as being involved in infantry signallers Class I instruction and a 17th/21st Lancers long-range HF radio exercise, Radio Troop had laid on a one to one C11/R210 link from Dhekelia to Cape Greco. Consequently, messages were passed, decisions made, timings and transport rearranged, and the visit took place as planned.

Parachuting — for fun

During the last few weeks, **Corporal Alan de la Haye** — a confirmed 'addict'—has been 'selling' the local Free Fall Parachute Club introductory courses in a big way. As a result, **Signalman 'Scouse' Hogan** and **Corporals Mark Eaton** and **'Tug' Wilson** have all taken the big jump. **Corporal Wilson** is now a confirmed enthusiast and finds himself involved in high finance trying to make his budget stretch to both parachuting and sub-aqua activities. We hope to produce photographic records of his sporting life in future notes.

W.R.A.C. successes

In the sporting world, **Corporal Sue Hamilton** represented the Cyprus W.R.A.C. in their successful Inter-Services squash match against the W.R.A.F. on 12th November. The trophy has been added to the others in the Squadron Commander's Office, and always seems to shine much more than the others.

Early in November a W.R.A.C. Junior N.C.O.s' course was run in Dhekelia, with the Squadron contingent providing instructors in drill and P.T., lecture-room facilities and four very successful students. **Lance-Corporals Trudy Clark, Jenny Smith, Sheila Clayton** and **Cynthia Grice** are to be congratulated on the hard work they put in to achieve very good marks and reports—three 'B' and one 'C' gradings are first class results. During the course our W.R.A.C. Comcen Supervisor (and part-time drill instructor) **Staff Sergeant Janice Ellis** developed a new sport—trying to spot the Squadron Commander lurking at the back of classrooms, hovering (in the shade) at the edge of the drill square, and peering around mounds of equipment in the gym—ostensibly observing course progress, but in reality escaping from his office, telephone, intercom. and 'In' tray.

FARAWAY PLACES !
UNUSUAL JOBS !
WHY NOT WRITE YOUR STORY FOR "THE WIRE"?

34th (Northern) Sig. Regt. (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Annual Admin.

A THREE-DAY endurance exercise for Brigadiers in Command was set by this Regiment, for **Brigadier James Jackson,** Commander of 12 Signal Group (Volunteers), under the guise of the Annual Administrative Inspection. The first hurdle, visiting the Lord Mayor of Hull, the Lady Mayoress and Sheriff for tea in the Town Hall was taken easily in a fast time. This was followed quickly by a cocktail party at Londesborough Barracks, under the chairmanship of **Captains Cedric Platt** and **Lee Tibbs.**

TAKING TEA WITH THE LORD MAYOR OF HULL
In the photo, left to right: Captain Cedric Platt, Brigadier A. J. Jackson, The Lord Mayor of Hull, Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Evans and Captain Lee Tibbs

The inspection of the Hull Detachment took place the following morning and a fast drive to Leeds in time for lunch. After inspecting an immaculate Barrack Guard, the Brigadier toured 49 Squadron. Another drive to Middleton St. George, a quick change and then a dinner party. Early on Sunday, a slightly worn, but still game, Group Commander motored to Gateshead, inspected and turned back to Middlesbrough for a hard look at the Regimental Sergeants' Mess and was revived by a lunch party, in the Officers' Mess. Inspection of Brambles Farm followed, reinforcements having arrived in the form of **Brigadier Claude Fairweather,** the Honorary Colonel.

Another motor trip to Darlington, home of 50 Squadron, completed the hard course. The Brigadier passed the test with flying colours—but a year's intensive training will be necessary to improve his time for the course.

Advanced Officer Training

We do not neglect to train our younger officers for the time when they will be required to carry out administrative inspections themselves. A carefully planned series of endurance tests is now nearing completion. Starting with the Leeds Old Comrades' dinner—a first-rate evening, as always—we progressed to the Regimental ball where **Corporal Nelson** surpassed himself in providing an excellent dinner.

The survivors of the Group dinner at Catterick underwent the stiff climb to the Remembrance Day sherry party, where many local dignitaries, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Teesside, cheered on those officers who were thought to be flagging under the strain.

50 Squadron Sergeants' social evening, under the direction of **S.S.M. Hewitson,** proved a formidable test. This occasion included the traditional boat race, which the officers won—a tribute to patient and dedicated training.

After this, the Teesside military ball passed without casualty, due no doubt to the presence of the Regimental trumpeters whose dinner calls encouraged officers to greater effort.

Hard training for the Christmas all ranks' dinner and Regimental dance, followed quickly by the Regimental Sergeants' ball, proceeds with untiring devotion to duty.

New Officers

We congratulate **Second-Lieutenants John Lowe** and **Peter Sutherland** on gaining their commissions and welcome **Second-Lieutenants Wilson, Sharpe** and **Clements**—all W.R.A.C.

Bandsman S. Beazley

We record with regret the sudden death of **Bandsman S. Beazley.** Aged 49, he joined the T.A. in 1939 and saw service with 50th Division in France, Africa and Italy. He rejoined the T.A. after the war as a bandsman, first with the Royal Engineers and latterly with our Regimental Band. His is a military family. His father was a Bandmaster in Royal Engineers, and his brother is Band Sergeant of our Band. We extend our sympathy to his widow and two children.

71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers) Bromley

LAST March we announced our formation in THE WIRE. Now, eight months later, having completed our first annual camp, we can truthfully say that we are well established and have made a good start in training for our role in support of U.K.L.F.

Camp, at Scarborough, was highly successful on all counts, including the weather. It provided the first opportunity for the Squadrons to come together as a Regiment and experience a feeling for the Corps, to which the majority transferred upon the disbandment of the Territorials. Although the only common feature in our dress is our cap badge, all four Squadrons fitted together very well, and very quickly; so much so that after two days it was as though the Regiment had been in existence for years rather than months.

Camp, 1969, of necessity, was planned to provide individual training and a firm foundation in skills and knowledge. All ranks worked hard at this, with results which reflect the enthusiasm and hard work of all concerned—organisers, instructors and trainees.

Keyboard training

We, too, were fortunate in securing the services of Sight and Sound Ltd., for keyboard training. With their system, 60 embryo comcen operators, telegraph operators and clerks obtained a basic touch-typing skill which, for the majority, is now being converted to the teleprinter keyboard. This comparatively new form of training has already been described briefly in THE WIRE, and there is no doubt that it provides a significant short cut in training for this particular skill.

The trainee radio operators were likewise engaged in learning morse and such was their keenness that instructors were cajoled into giving extra training during the evenings. Many a barrack room became untenable at night because of the morse practice taking place.

V.I.P.s present

The number of visitors at camp, twenty-one in all, indicated the great interest shown in us and how we were progressing. All made complimentary comments on what they had seen and all had no doubt that we had got off to a flying start. Among them were the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command; the S.O.-in-C.; G.O.C., Eastern District; our Commander, 13th Signal Group; and a trio of C.S.O.s, Southern Command, Northern Command and London District. Not counted as a visitor, as he is really a member of the family, was **Major-General Anderson, C.B.E.,** who was appointed Honorary Colonel to the Regiment last August. His plans to see us were twice thwarted when, as ACDS (Signals) he was required to be in the U.S.A. for the satellite launch. Fortunately for us, the launch was again postponed and so made his visit possible at the last moment. He very quickly met everyone and was well and truly dined-in at the officers' first dinner night, notable

. . . AT SCARBOROUGH
Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., SO-in-C, meets Staff-Sergeant Cox of 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) at annual camp at Scarborough

also for the display of two guidons and a large fortune in mess silver. We are looking forward to seeing a lot more of the General at our many centres on his return from the States.

Annual camp had its lighter side, and this came in the form of a knockout football tournament. The first match held was between the W.R.A.C. and 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. It would not be correct to quote the score, but the men acquitted themselves well against superior numbers and, in some cases, superior weights! The knockout competition itself proved very popular and, with the exception of one broken arm—incident free. It was won by the P.S.I.s, who narrowly defeated a rather weary 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron.

Facing a new training year

We now face a new training year. 884 Sub Regional Signal Troop, at Brighton, have already made their mark by winning, on Exercise 'Autumn Scramble,' one week after return from camp, 13 Signal Group Commander's 'barrel of ale' for the greatest volume of traffic passed over the D11 link during the final two-hour schedule of the exercise.

There is a lot of work ahead of us. We have still to draw the bulk of our general stores, and there are many more vehicles to be issued, but recruiting is progressing well, and we are confident that we shall soon be able to hold our own with the best. Camp next year is at Scarborough again, although most of the time is to be spent on field exercises, which will keep the majority away from the 3 B's Club and other fleshpots.

Our Squadron titles have been approved. These, and their locations, are as follows:

H.Q. (265 London & Kent) Signal Squadron (V)—Bromley and Bexleyheath.

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)—Lincolns Inn, Camberwell and Brighton.

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)—Chelmsford, Harlow and Southend-on-Sea.

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)—Reading, Windsor and Southampton.

In conclusion, we would like to thank our many friends in Regular and Volunteer units, The School of Signals, the Training Brigade and Royal Signals Records, who have been so helpful to us in overcoming so many and varied problems during the period of setting ourselves up.

81 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) IN CYPRUS

81 Signal Squadron consists of volunteers from many parts of the country. They flew to Cyprus for two weeks and are a cheerful and efficient team of communicators. 857 Airfield Troop, pictured above are typical of the excellent volunteer spirit in the Squadron

81 Squadron depart . . .

WE, in 81 Squadron, consider ourselves very fortunate to have carried out annual training in Cyprus from 24th October - 7th November. We are, as you will remember, the anomaly—a wholly 11B (or ex-A.E.R.) Squadron in a 11A Regiment and the Air Support (formerly known as Air Formation) element of the Reserve Army. Our parent unit is the 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V).

One-hundred-and-twenty of us got off to a good start by flying in a VC-10 of Air Support Command from Brize Norton to Akrotiri. We were not so lucky on the way back. Our flight home was cancelled (not postponed, mark you). However, after kicking up a fuss, we got back, later than expected, but just in time to be at work on Monday. 'They' had to hire and send out a special aircraft to pick us up!

For Akrotiri . . .

R.A.F. Akrotiri is quite a place. Its area is 45 square miles and when you consider that Catterick is only 34 square miles in area, you can understand how impressive it is. It is, in fact, the largest R.A.F. Station in the world now. Yet, all there is there by way of Royal Signals is an Airfield Troop and a Project Troop under **Captain Tony Gatwood** and **Captain (T.O.T.) John Jupe** respectively. We outnumbered the regulars well and truly, but the hospitality shown to us was, nevertheless, overwhelming. Incidentally, Group Captain Engineering, having got used to seeing us about but not quite knowing who we were, observed to **Captain Gatwood,** "I am pleased to see that they have at last brought your establishment up to a sensible level . . . "

And work . . .

Our main job was to install a new overhead line development to the Officers' married quarters so as to ensure that all important people, including every pilot, would get a telephone. This was just right for a Squadron that is 95% G.P.O. It was also an excellent exercise in public relations because, although only a few met the Senior R.A.F. Officers, many more met their wives! One morning, a fire broke out in the nearby bush (not caused by us). **Corporal Crainie** jumped over a fence to borrow fire-fighting equipment and found a Wing Commander's wife sun-bathing clad in, well, nothing. Nothing daunted, he still remembered to ring for the Fire Brigade before returning to fight the fire!

Whilst on this project, we were honoured with a visit from **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C. NEARELF. He spoke to everybody he met and overran his programme by half-an-hour. We thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated his visit and are grateful for his interest in us.

Some of the Squadron went much further afield. The technicians were the most fortunate in this respect. Two spent most of their time in Nicosia. Four others were in Troodos, half-way up Mount Olympus, for an important task to be done in high altitude there. Other technicians were in Episkopi, as were six of our drivers training with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. Meanwhile, our linemen fulfilled a multitude of smaller projects in Akrotiri and Episkopi, including fixing up **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** Commander 3rd Signal Group, with a fully operational house switchboard.

And play . . .

Throughout our visit the weather was beautiful. The 'locals' thought we were mad to swim, as it was by then far too cold for them. However, we, working summer hours, were able to be on the beach by the early afternoon and enjoy up to two hours with the sun and sea warm and inviting. Apart from swimming we joined in other local sports. We beat 261 Squadron 5-1 in a keenly fought soccer match, and individuals became champions at snooker, table tennis and darts.

The middle Sunday saw most of the Squadron off on a day trip to the north of the Island and in particular to Nicosia and on to Kyrenia, which we all agreed to be one of the most beautiful places we had ever seen. This trip took us through Greece and Turkish areas and brought us into contact with U.N. forces and was thus fascinating. But it was not all play for everybody. A fault occurred on a major cable at Akrotiri and two of our cable jointers, who opted out of the trip, found they had a very busy day!

The fortnight soon sped by and we were involved with all the usual events of the last few days. The Officers gave a cocktail party at which **Major-General Holme,** many of the Officers of 3rd Signal Group and many R.A.F. Officers from Akrotiri and Episkopi were, with their wives, honoured guests,

81 Signal Squadron (V) liked Cyprus — and Cyprus liked them

(1) Colonel D. L. Sylvester Bradley O.B.E. commander 3rd Signal Group, accompanied by Major Peter Dixon, O.C. Squadron, has a word with Signalman M. F. Potts of Shrewsbury
(2) Sergeant Bob MacDiarmid explains the projects to Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., G.O.C. NEARELF Background: Major Peter Dixon
(3) General Holme in conversation with brawny Corporal Louis Edwards of Eccles, Lancs. Major Neil Grayson, O.C. 261 Squadron in the background
(4) Signalman George Tress of Manchester jointing
(5) Signalman Dennis Pountney of Hucknall, Notts "up the pole"
(6) Corporal Ray Newton of Shewsbury jointing

as were a few local nurses and school teachers, by courtesy of **Captain Tim Armstead.**

The next day saw the Squadron party, which transpired to have almost a music-hall touch with 'turns' from many, including a choir of officers, who had recovered from feeling fragile after the previous night, only to suffer the same experience again the next day. During this period we were delighted to see our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Hall,** who came hot-foot from Northern Ireland, where he had been C.R. Signals as well as C.O. of our Regiment, and who flung himself into our activities with his usual energy and enthusiasm.

And go back again?

And so to the final day and to the great honour paid to us when the Station Commander of R.A.F. Akrotiri, **Air Commodore D. A. Green, C.B.E., D.S.O.,** presented to our O.C., **Major Peter Dixon,** a shield in appreciation of our activities on his station, and also wrote us a very kind letter demanding our return next year. **Colonel Sylvester-Bradley,** in spite of being pressed into inspecting us on parade on the middle Saturday and thereby losing some two hours of sailing, has also requested our return, and we hope very much to oblige in May of next year—God, and the powers that be, willing!

Embarking on a new life in the Corps

67th (Queen's Own Warwickshire & Worcestershire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) Stratford-upon-Avon

THIS new Signal Squadron was formed in January a year ago and was recruited exclusively from a former Royal Armoured Corps Regiment, The Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry.

The Yeomanry was formed in 1794 and is the second senior Territorial Cavalry Regiment. The Q.O.W.W.Y. has the unique honour of being the only unit in the British Army to have Her Majesty the Queen as Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

The Regiment took part in the last cavalry charge in the Army at Huj in 1917, and the Regiment was the first to break through the German lines at El Alamein in 1942. Since the war they have been equipped with Comet tanks, Daimler Armoured Cars and Ferret Scout Cars. An eight-man cadre carries the previous title of the Q.O.W.W.Y. on the Army Lists.

With this illustrious past we embark on a new life in the Royal Corps of Signals. In our new role we are equipped with Land Rovers and one-tonners fitted with D11s and C12s. Everyone is busy converting from their former R.A.C. trades to Royal Signal ones. Many N.C.O.s and soldiers have been away to Catterick on trade courses.

The Squadron forms part of the 37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment based on Bristol and commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl.**

Annual camp was held at Penhale Camp, Newquay, in June when the new role and trade structure was put to the severest tests and we feel we came through 'okay.'

The Squadron wears the Royal Signals cap badge in their distinctive black and white hats, with the bear and ragged staff collar badges, and the W.W.Y. shoulder titles are retained. The bear and ragged staff has very early military significance as a cap badge, being used many years before the Regiment's official formation. Quote from Shakespeare's (2 King Henry VI, Act 2, Scene 1):

Lord Clifford: *Might I know thee by thy household badge.*

Earl of Warwick: *Now, by my father's badge, Old Nevill's crest, the rampant bear chained to the ragged staff, this day I'll wear aloft in my burgonet.*

The present Squadron Leader is **Major S. W. T. Birch, T.D.,** and the two Royal Signals Permanent Staff Instructors are **Sergeant W. Kitching** and **Corporal P. Murphy.**

Squadron Headquarters is based at Stratford upon Avon together with two Troops and one Troop is based at Stourbridge in Worcestershire.

SIGNALS ADVISER / RADIO ENGINEER IS REQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD OF SAUDI ARABIA

Initial contract for one year, including six weeks' paid leave in U.K. Unmarried or unaccompanied men are preferred. Salary and allowances approximately £3,300 per annum.

Duties include advising the Director of Signals on all technical and staff matters and on purchase and deployment of radio equipment; supervision of repair and maintenance of static, mobile and portable radio equipment; and organisation of training of radio operators. The Force at present is equipped with D11 and C11 sets but planning to adopt modern HF and VHF communication systems.

Applications giving brief details of qualifications, experience and past employment, should be made to:

Commander National Guard,
P.O. Box 182,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,
by civil air mail at full postage rates.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

Membership of the Royal Signals Yacht Club is open to all ranks of the Corps, whether serving or retired. Details of membership and forms of application are available from:

EITHER The Unit Sailing Officer of your Unit OR Hon. Secretary R.S.Y.C. (U.K.), c/o H.Q. Blandford Station, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

Membership cards are issued to all members.

Sailing in U.K. in Corps boats and racing in Corps and inter-Service events is available throughout the season to members of the R.S.Y.C. Details of events are circulated by Newsletter. Members wishing to receive these must ensure that their names and addresses are registered either with their Unit Sailing Officer or the Hon. Secretary R.S.Y.C. (U.K.) (as above). **This is particularly important on posting back to U.K. from overseas.**

So, please co-operate and register each year as soon as possible after 1st January, quoting your R.S.Y.C. membership card number.

Spotlight on a Corps Cricketer

Corporal M. G. Kilvington

by Major J. R. Stephenson, Queen's, Cricket Officer, School of Signals

CORPORAL '**Mick**' **Kilvington** is shortly to be posted to 21st Signal Regiment in Germany, after four years at the School of Signals. During his time at the School he has distinguished himself on the cricket field, and I therefore felt that his achievments should be recorded in THE WIRE.

Corporal Kilvington joined the Royal Signals in 1964 and, on completion of his trade training with 8th Regiment, was posted to the School of Signals in 1966. Between 1966 and 1969 he played regularly for the School of Signals, the Corps and the Army. On moving to Blandford with the School he added the Dorset County side to the list in 1968 and 1969.

Corporal M. G. Kilvington, School of Signals

I asked him to tell me about his best performances and details of his batting and bowling averages over the years he has been with the School, but in his unassuming way said he did not keep records of his cricketing exploits. However, after searching through score-books and making enquiries, I managed to compile an outline of his achievements.

Royal Signals

He has played 31 times for the Corps, during which he has taken 159 wickets for 1,869 runs. In 16 matches he has taken five or more wickets.

As a batsman, he has scored 635 runs in 40 innings with an average of 20.9. His best score was 53 not out against Royal Engineers in 1966.

The Army

He gained his first cap for the Army in 1966 and has played in every inter-Service match since then.

Altogether he has played 32 times, taking a total of 50 wickets for 1,002 runs, and has scored a total of 191 runs.

His best Army performances were 3 wickets for 17 runs against Royal Navy in 1967; 4 wickets for 25 runs against Berkshire in 1968, and 5 wickets for 30 runs against R.M.A., Sandhurst, in 1969 (including a hat-trick).

Undoubtedly his best season was 1969, when he took a total of 21 wickets for 293 runs and scored 46 runs.

Dorset

When not required for Service cricket, **Corporal Kilvington** played regularly for Dorset, gaining his cap in 1969.

I have been unable to get hold of his county averages, but know that his best performance was 10 wickets for 26 runs against Cornwall in a Minor Counties Championship match in August, 1969. This is certainly a Dorset record and is thought to be a Minor Counties record.

To Germany

Now, at the age of 24, he is to go to Germany, where he will surely terrorise many batsmen on the matting wickets. To this fine Royal Signals cricketer go our congratulations for his distinguished cricketing career while at the School of Signals and our best wishes for the future. We hope that he will continue to make the most of his obvious cricketing ability.

BOOK REVIEW

"Fall out the Officers"

Spike Mays joined The Royals as a 'band-rat' direct from a farm cottage in Suffolk in 1924. In a racey storey, 'Fall Out The Officers' (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 35s.) he describes in detail his life as a failed bandsman, a successful trooper, signaller and signalman in Aldershot, Hounslow, Abassia, Trimulgherry and Meerut. Among his officers, of whom we hear much, was **Lieutenant Wintle,** later famous as the Colonel who debagged a solicitor and personally fought and won a case in the House of Lords.

Spike decided to become a tradesman, against the day of his discharge and transferred to Royal Signals. He trained as a wireless operator in Jubulpore in 1930 with a squad of Lahore lads who had been taught to speak English as though they came from Llanelly.

He had the time of his life with **Captain Mark Duke** in 3rd Cavalry Brigade Signal Troop, training remounts, shikar and exploring—including the harem area of a noble's house, whence he was ejected without lasting damage to his person, the noble believing him to be mad. The comparison between the gentlemanly life of a British Signalman in the Raj, compared with that of other arms, is remarked upon. The servants, the delicious food, the soft touch of the napi's razor at dawn, which compared more favourably with a cavalry trumpet. He loved Indian soldiers, for whom he had the deepest respect.

Spike went to Edinburgh University late in life and finished up as a P.R.O. at London Airport. In 1969 he has also published a best seller, 'Reubens Corner.'

'Fall Out The Officers' is modern Kipling, but better, in that Kipling was an outsider peering into the barrack room. If you put the book down, be careful where you leave it. Your relatives would require a comprehensive dictionary of short, sharp, Anglo-Saxon words.

BATH & DISTRICT BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: MR. W. SWANSON, 95, Bloomfield Drive, Bath.

The Branch held their 21st annual dinner in Bath on 15th November. The event proved to be an outstanding success, with a record number of members and guests present.

Before proposing the toast to the Royal Signals Association, the Vice-Chairman, **Major A. M. Keeling, O.B.E., T.D.,** welcomed everyone, particularly those who had travelled from London and the local districts. A special welcome was given to **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** the General Secretary, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** Commanding Officer of 37th (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment (V), and to **Mr. B. Clarke** and **Mr. L. Butler,** Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively of the Bristol Branch. **Major Keeling** went on to say that the Branch celebrated its 21st anniversary with some pride and thanked the members for their loyal support during the past years. Even so, nothing would please him more than to see young and enthusiastic ex-members of the Corps joining the Branch to participate in its affairs and to serve on the Committee. He also wondered what happened to the regular officers who retired to the Bath area for not one had joined the Branch since it was formed. On behalf of the Branch he congratulated the President, **Major E. F. Hedger, O.B.E.,** on his recent appointment as Director General of Defence Contracts.

Brigadier P. Hobson, in reply, gave a review of the Corps activities and congratulated the Branch on its steady progress over the years. He gave a special reminder that the Corps celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1970 and asked members to let the Hon. Secretary know if they intended to be present at the celebrations in Catterick or Blandford.

The Hon. Secretary of the Branch is **Mr. W. Swanson,** 95, Bloomfield Drive, Bath, and he will be very pleased to reply to any inquiries regarding membership.

[Courtesy: Bath Evening Chronicle

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION — BATH AND DISTRICT BRANCH 21st ANNUAL DINNER

Top Table, left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel G. S. Curl, Mrs. G. S. Curl, Brigadier P. Hobson, Major E. Hedger (President), Mrs. E. Hedger, Mr. L. Moorse (Chairman), Mrs. A. M. Keeling, Major A. M. Keeling (Vice Chairman), Mr. W. Swanson (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. J. Moon

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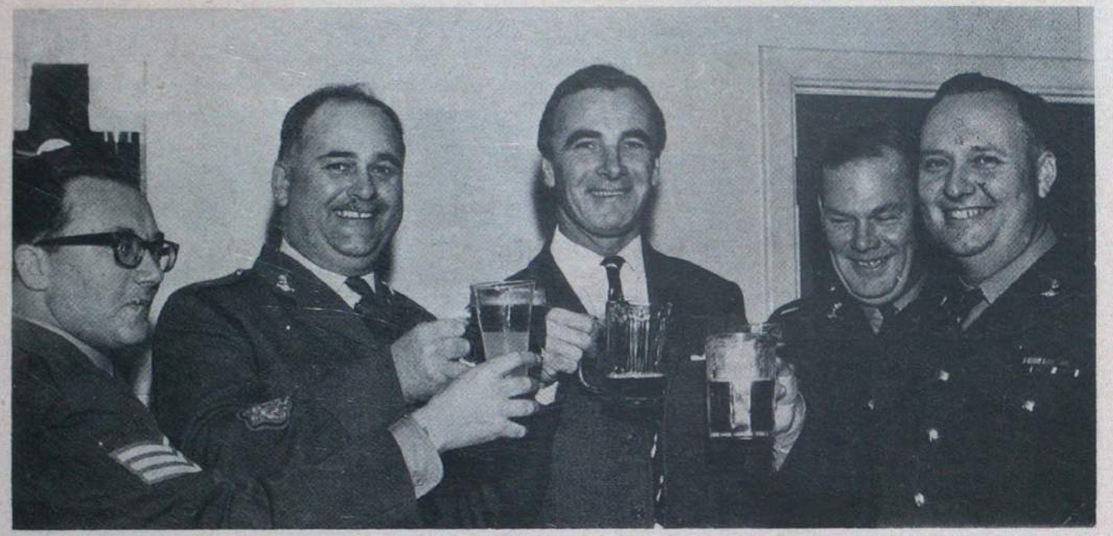

MAKINGS OF A PARTY?
Colonel Ken Rees takes the waters at Saighton Camp prior to his retirement. Also "suffering" are Sergeant Hopkins, W.O.I Hopewell, Sergeant Wilby and W.O.I Jones

RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1970 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately nine months, according to the trainee's progress, are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1970.

During training, a salary will be paid on the following scale:

Age 21	£800	per annum
22	855	„ „
23	890	„ „
24	925	„ „
25 and over	965	„ „

Free accommodation will be provided at the Training School.

After successful completion of the course, Operators will be paid on the Grade 1 scale:

Age 21	£965	per annum
22	1025	„ „
23	1085	„ „
24	1145	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1215	„ „

then by six annual increases to a maximum of £1,650 per annum.

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Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course and must have at least two years' operating experience. Preference given to those who have G.C.E. or P.M.G. qualifications.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1970.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6),
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College Hill,
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February-March 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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☆

FEBRUARY/MARCH • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 2**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our picture is of Dover Castle, and in it can be seen the Constable's Tower, over which flies the personal banner with Coat of Arms of the present Deputy Constable. The interesting point here is that the Deputy Constable is **Brigadier J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.,** of the Corps, and as our readers will find, if they read the article on page 50, this is the somewhat unusual job that has come the way of a member of the Corps in the ordinary line of duty. Equally unusual must it be for **Lance-Corporal Marsh** of the Corps, who assists **Brigadier Badcock** in the position of Constable's Tower Corporal. (The coloured cover photo is by courtesy of Ray Warner Ltd., of Dover, as are the photographs in the article).

A Plea for News

THE WIRE aims, amongst other things, to be a source of Corps news for all members of the Corps, both serving and retired. While a certain amount of Corps news and gossip comes to our ears in the course of our Editorial duties, much happens that we never get to hear about or, if we do, it is too late to be worth publishing. We make a plea now to all our readers to keep us informed of anything that they may think will be of interest to other readers of THE WIRE. A short note, or even a telephone call to 01-730-4129 (ask for THE WIRE) is all that is necessary.

We can often insert SHORT items of news in THE WIRE after the official closing date for written copy. We would stress that this applies just as much to retired members of the Corps, and any news of these old and valued members of the Corps is always welcome.

Our only problem is space, and so we would urge that any news item is kept reasonably short.

Be news minded and help to keep 'The Wire' interesting.

New Year's Honours

All will be pleased to hear of the following awards in the New Year's Honours :

C.B.
Major-General A. J. Deane-Drummond, D.S.O., M.C.

O.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel C. O. Bound

M.B.E.
Major G. D. K. Woolrych

B.E.M.
Staff Sergeant W. K. L. Bell
Sergeant P. Kinsey

We also congratulate **Mr. C. W. Dunham,** wartime Sergeant in the Corps and now general secretary of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association on the award of the M.B.E.

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 Anthony Acott, an ex-member of Gan Island Signal Troop, 19th Regiment*

for being awarded an Air Commander's Commendation by **Air Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., S.F.C., A.F.C.,** for his work during his tour on Gan. Apart from sterling work at his trade, he devoted most of his time to 'Radio Gan' where as Senior Announcer he worked extremely long hours, and by his enthusiasm and example did much to raise the standard of broadcasting to a high professionalism. 'Radio Gan' is an essential amenity on this tight little masculine island and **Lance-Corporal Acott's** efforts made a considerable contribution to the spirit of the station and brought great credit to his Service and his Corps. **Lance-Corporal Acott** is now in 261 Signal Squadron. All his ex-colleagues in the Troop and the Regiment join in sending congratulations on this well-deserved award.

—— *Lieutenant-Colonel 'Jimmy' Ferguson at present C.S.O. Scotland and shortly to retire*

on being selected as Assistant Secretary to the Royal and Ancient, St. Andrews. This is a new appointment and involves the organisation and running of championships and other events for which the Club is responsible. A knowledgeable golfer he has had considerable experience in this type of work, notably when he was secretary of the Catterick Garrison Golf Club.

—— *Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Shardlow, retired*

for going round Beeston Fields golf course, Nottinghamshire, in 70 strokes gross—two strokes less than his age of 72. This is considered to be a county record.

—— *Major John Harwood of 21st Regiment*

for being placed first in the Baron Oertzen Cup (handicap event) on the Cresta Run, St. Moritz, Switzerland. The first three places went to Great Britain.

Movements

Officers

Brigadier J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.	To	M.O.D. (D.M.S.2)
Major E. T. Bolt	,,	39th Regiment (V)
A/Captain A. Burtt	,,	1 (BR) Corps Outward Bound Centre, Norway
Major R. Bell	,,	39 Inf. Bde. & Sig. Sqn. (213) as O.C.
Lieutenant R. W. Coe	,,	24th Regiment
Major J. Cox	,,	21st Regiment
Colonel J. C. Clinch	,,	A.A.C., Harrogate
Major J. E. Denton	,,	3 Signal Group
Captain (T.O.T.) E. M. Frost, M.B.E.	,,	J.O.C.P.T., Salisbury
Major (Q.M.) A. M. French, B.E.M.	,,	233 Signal Squadron
Major J. R. Garratt	,,	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron as O.C.
Captain P. A. Lenthall	,,	2nd Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Macfarlane	,,	Cabinet Office
Lieutenant S. C. Moralee	,,	59 A.Y.T.
Major W. F. M. Michie	,,	22nd Regiment
Major J. L. McKellar	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) (retiring 8th March)
Captain J. R. S. Ovenden	,,	14th Regiment
A/Major F. V. B. Philp	,,	28th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel F. Parker	,,	H.Q. Northern Command
Captain G. E. Parfitt	,,	11th Regiment (H.S.) (retiring 4th March)
Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Parkin	,,	19th Regiment
Captain W. A. Price	,,	244 Signal Squadron
Major P. G. Rogers	,,	3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, attd. 25th Feb-21st March
Major (T.O.T.) A. V. Render	,,	255 Signal Squadron
Captain (T.O.T.) N. A. V. Ribchester	,,	8th Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) R. R. Rose	,,	30th Regiment
Major F. Smith	,,	222 Squadron as O.C.
Major C. M. Sinclair	,,	240 Squadron as O.C.
Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.	,,	Command Trg. Bde. as Brigadier
Major M. J. H. Williams	,,	30th Regiment
Captain L. A. Woods	,,	Tech. Group R.E.M.E., c/o S.R.D.E. as A/Major
Captain R. F. Wilford	,,	Pers. Selection Team, 11th Regiment
Major T. H. Wheawell	,,	6 Inf. Bde. & Sig. Sqn. (206) as O.C.
Lieutenant J. C. Wollaston	,,	28th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E.	,,	H.Q. 2 Signal Group as Comd. (Colonel)

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.II (F. of S.) D. G. Spear	To	7th Regiment
W.O.II R. A. Peake	,,	38th Regiment (V)
W.O.II G. E. Morrill	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. S. W. Briggs	,,	CH HQ and Trg. Team
W.O.II A. Constantinou	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. H. D. Ward	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. E. Treharne	,,	255 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. S. Pearson	,,	32nd Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) F. Holland	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. M. Frost	,,	12 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant G. Watson	,,	13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) V. W. Rayner	,,	7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant H. Price	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Staff Sergeant E. Milne	,,	30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Sharrock	,,	H.Q., 13 Signal Group
Sergeant W. C. Stagg	,,	35th Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. J. Waring	,,	10th Regiment
Sergeant B. L. J. Mundy	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant D. Lightfoot	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. D. Hinton	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant J. G. Tait	,,	H.Q., Army Strategic Comd.
A/Sergeant A. Russell	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant J. P. McMahon	,,	4 Guards Brigade Signal Sqn.
Sergeant K. Hornblower	,,	227 Squadron
Sergeant C. T. Coventry	,,	632 Troop
Sergeant G. Harwood	,,	234 Squadron
Sergeant J. Hague	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant W. M. Kerr	,,	262 Squadron
Sergeant D. E. G. Rozier	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. Spiers	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant W. G. Bell	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Andrews	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant J. E. T. Mellett	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant W. D. Smith	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant G. Coatsworth	,,	252 Squadron
Sergeant N. J. Wilmott	,,	20 Armd. Brigade Signal Sqn.
Sergeant P. E. Travers	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant D. Whittingham	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant B. R. Brown	,,	255 Squadron
A/Sergeant G. R. Nicol	,,	38th Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant A. G. Parker	,,	37th Regiment (V)

THE ROYAL SIGNALS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 1970

Celebrations to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary will be held at Salisbury and Blandford on Sunday, 21st June.

Programme of events:

11.15 a.m. A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Salisbury Cathedral (dress for serving members will be Service Dress, No. 1 Dress hat, medals, Sam Browne as appropriate and gloves for officers).

12.30 p.m. March Past in Salisbury of Old Comrades and serving contingents.

2.30 p.m. Open Day at the School of Signals including a pageant on the theme 'A Hundred Years of Signalling.'

5.15 p.m. Retreat.

(Lunch and tea will be available at Blandford on repayment).

All members of the Corps, serving or retired, and their families are cordially invited to take part in the celebrations, and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend.

Regular and T.A.V.R. members of the Corps should apply through their units or headquarters if they wish to attend. Retired members of the Corps should apply through the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (Tel. 01-730-4129) as should members of the Royal Signals Association who do not belong to branches. Members who belong to branches should apply through their branch secretaries. Retired members, including Association members, are asked to make every effort to submit provisional attendance figures by the 28th February, 1970, to assist in the planning of administrative arrangements.

WELCOME ON FIRST COMMISSIONING INTO THE CORPS
No. 72 ROYAL SIGNALS OFFICERS QUALIFYING COURSE
Back Row—Left to Right:—Second-Lieutenants Bingham, Binham, Bushell, Conlon, Conran, Crampton, Cross, Davies
Middle Row—Left to Right:—Second-Lieutenants Donaghy, Gittings, Hand, Hill, Holden, Kennard, Kirby
Front Row—Left to Right:—Second-Lieutenants Lloyd-Jones, McVittie, Robinson, Sinton, Smith, Thompson, West, Whitemore
Absent:—Second-Lieutenant Jones

NEW CORPS RECORD

The Corps Band, under the Director of Music, **Captain K. R. R. Boulding, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., B.B.C.M., psm, are** producing a new Corps Record, which will be available for sale through the Royal Signals Association, from April, 1970.

The record will be a 12 inch LP for stereo playing (but it can also be played on mono equipment); it will have a four-colour cover depicting Fanfare Trumpeters in full dress.

Side One will be a typical Retreat programme: it will therefore contain a selection of well-known Quick Marches, Slow Marches and Fanfares and will include a new March "Fifty Years' Young," which has been specially composed by the Director of Music to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Corps. Side Two is an album of gay and cheerful music under the title of "Begone Dull Care," presenting the Band in concert facade.

Details of cost and the method of ordering will be issued later.

INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION DINNER

Members are reminded that the Annual Dinner takes place, as usual, at the Duke of York's H.Q., King's Road, Chelsea, on Saturday, 18th April. Assemble 7.15 p.m., dinner 7.45.

All will be delighted to hear that Admiral of the Fleet **Earl Mountbatten of Burma** has honoured the Association by accepting an invitation to be principal guest on this occasion.

For full details of this dinner and membership of the Indian Signals Association write to: **Lieutenant-Colonel G. R. Gould,** The Sycamores, Church Lane, Dunnington, Yorks. Tel.: Dunnington 516.

TEA CLOTHS OF INTEREST

Irish linen, coloured, with Corps Band playing in Richmond Castle.

Price 6s. 9d. each (exclusive of postage) for quantities up to 12. 6s. 6d. each (exclusive of postage) for quantities of 13 or more.

Suppliers: Messrs. Hodgson, Drapers, The Market Square, Richmond, Yorks.

ROYAL SIGNALS 50th ANNIVERSARY 1970 CELEBRATIONS

SPECIAL ROYAL SIGNALS ONE-DAY COVER

Orders for these Covers can now be placed. Please use order form below.

To: Royal Signals Philatelic Officer,
11th Signal Regiment,
Helles Barracks,
Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire.

Date .....

Please send ..... copies of the Royal Signals 50th Anniversary One-Day Cover (5/- each) issued on 28th June, 1970, to:

.....

Give name and .....

full postal address .....

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order for £ : : to cover the cost. (Note: Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to: PRI, 11th Signal Regiment).

Signed .....

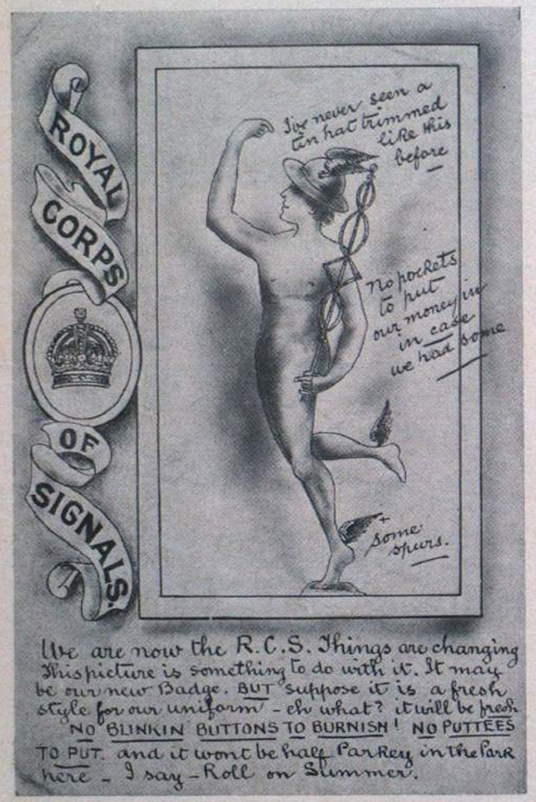
From our "In" Tray

23rd ANNUAL REUNION OF 51 and 52 'R' SPECIAL WIRELESS SECTIONS AND TYPE X PERSONNEL

The Reunion Dinner will take place on Saturday, 11th April, 1970, at the Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, City of London. Members of 103 Special Wireless Section and the Mobile Section of 2 Special Wireless Group are cordially invited to attend.

Details from: **Geoff Morgan,** 19, Parliament Hill, Hampstead, London, N.W.3, Tel. 01-435-7539, who would also be glad to hear of the addresses of any who may be eligible to attend, so that he can contact them.

SHADES OF MARESFIELD 1920!



We are indebted to Mr. W. A. Clark of 256 Addison Way, Hayes, Middlesex for sending us the above postcard which was circulating in Maresfield Park in the early 1920's

Make this your resolution
for the Seventies . . .
BE BIG—BUY YOUR OWN WIRE

GETTING CARRIED IN A CAMEL KAJAWA

R.M.A. writes:

Did you ever have to be carried by the Field Ambulance on a Waziristan column? The choice was a camel kajawa or a riding horse. The kajawa was a wicker bed suspended on one side of a camel, a similar one occupied the other side. Unlike other quadrupeds the camel walks in step with itself. The result was that the wounded man's head performed a continuous sickening helical movement throughout the eight or nine hours of travel each day. The kind M.O.'s gave the patient the choice of a 'riding' horse which might have been satisfactory had not the Irish M.O.'s, who only joined the service to get at the horses, gradually replaced all the comfortable plodders with race horses. I saw a Gurkha with a thigh wound spend a day on a horse. His comrades held him in position and provided a continuous rum transfusion presumably as an anaesthetic.

Other facts to bear in mind about camels are that they smell, gargle their tonsils out and do the splits in the snow. The sickness rate was always very low on column.

LECTURER GRADE II VACANCY AT THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

A Grade II Lecturer vacancy exists, which could well be filled by an officer at present serving or a recently retired Corps officer, suitably qualified with a degree in engineering or physics with an interest in electronics.

The post, which is pensionable, commands a salary in the range £1,827 to £2,417 plus a non-pensionable allowance of £365. Service teaching experience will count towards increments which are £59 a year. The successful candidate should take up the appointment not later than the end of September, 1970.

Write now for particulars to: **Lieutenant-Colonel (retd.) H. G. S. Burkett,** School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset. Tel.: Blandford 2581, ext. 217.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced between **Lieutenant Stuart Moralee,** now with No. 59 Army Youth Team, Wolverhampton, eldest son of **Flight-Lieutenant** and **Mrs. Moralee,** of Waterlooville, Hants., and Lynn, youngest daughter of **Captain (Q.M.) L. J. Taylor, M.B.E.,** Royal Signals, and **Mrs. Taylor,** of Krefeld, Germany.

Obituary

BRIGADIER W. C. BUCHANAN, C.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L.

William Carrick Buchanan, who died on 1st January at the age of 73, enlisted in the Glasgow Highlanders in 1915 and was commissioned the same year in the Army Cyclist Corps, serving in France 1917-18 where he won the M.C., while O.C. V Corps Observers. During the final advance in 1918 his unit reported progress across the Corps front and he paid tribute to the reliable communications provided for them by Colwyn Vullliamy's wireless section using trench sets as mobile stations and 'Wilson' sets as relays. This demonstration of good signalling was one of the things which inclined Buchanan to join Royal Signals on the reconstitution of the T.A. in 1921.

His unit was 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals, of which he became C.O. in 1940, arriving with part of the Division at Cherbourg during the German offensive. They were evacuated after the French capitulation. In 1941 he became S.O.I Signals First Army in North Africa, and was later attached to the U.S. Fifth Army, and was awarded the Legion of Merit. From 1943 to 1945 he was C.S.O. L. of C. in Italy with the rank of Brigadier. In this capacity he did a truly remarkable job. He was an adept at getting the most out of his American colleagues, his own subordinates, and the Italian telecommunication executives. He was not an electronic engineer by profession, but a stockbroker. Nevertheless he mastered the potentialities of the various sophisticated equipments, both military and civil, and under his direction highly efficient usage was developed.

Although his resources in personnel and equipment were restricted he succeeded in building a common user theatre telecommunication network, extending eventually from Sicily over the whole of Italy, which never failed to meet the needs of the allied armed forces and, to a limited extent, of the civil authorities. He was awarded the C.B.E.

He was a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Glasgow and a member and one-time President of the Glasgow Stock Exchange.

The deep sympathy of the Corps is extended to his widow and their daughter.

COLONEL W. H. N. DENT, M.B.E.

William Harry Noel Dent, who died on 24th December, served in France with 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers from 1916 to 1918. He was wounded.

Seconded to Royal Signals from 1923, he transferred in 1925, at which time he was serving in the Iraq Signal Section. He was awarded the M.B.E. in the Arab Rebellion.

From 1930 to 1934, he was Adjutant of the 50th Northumbrian Divisional Signals. In 1935 he joined B Corps Signals, Karachi, until proceeding, on half pay, as a major in 1938. He was back in harness by January, 1939, and finally retired in the rank of Colonel in 1944. He will be particularly remembered by many who passed through his hands during the war period when he commanded the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. at Catterick Camp.

CAPTAIN ALAN GRIFFIN, M.B.E., M.S.M.

It was only recently that we came to hear, through a correspondent, of the death, a few months ago, of **Captain Alan Griffin, M.B.E., M.S.M.,** late of the Corps. He will, of course, be known to many as a Chief Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London, from which he retired some six years ago because of ill health.

He was originally R.E. Signals and served on with the Corps until 1935, when he finished his service. He was sworn in as a Yeoman Warder in 1939. On the outbreak of World War II, he was re-called to service and will be remembered by many as C.S.M. of 151 O.C.T.U., Royal Signals, at Aldershot. Later he was promoted R.S.M., and in 1941, he was commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.). He served in North Africa and was released from service as Captain (Q.M.) and returned to the Tower of London. On the 1st January, 1954, he was honoured by being selected for the appointment of Chief Warder, which position he held until his retirement in 1963.

Altogether, he spent some 45 years in uniform, of which nearly 30 years was with R.E. Signals and the Corps.

He was a remarkable personality and had many friends, both from his service days and from his time at the Tower.

W.O.II GEORGE EDWARD LITCHFIELD

George Edward Litchfield enlisted at the age of 18½ on 10th October, 1916, into the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, transferring into the Machine Gun Corps with whom he was in action, being taken prisoner only a month before the Armistice.

Unable to stay away for long, he immediately joined up again on demobilization, this time into the R.E. Signals, transferring to the Corps on its formation. He saw action in Palestine, Greece and the Western Desert for which he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He took his discharge as a W.O.II in November, 1948, having completed his peace-time service in this country and West Africa.

On leaving the service he settled locally and continued to serve the Corps in various civilian appointments with the School of Signals, O.T.W. and finally the Depot.

He died on 3rd January aged 71 years, and is survived by his wife, Hilda, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

MR. D. G. H. KING

News has just come in of the death of **Mr. D. G. H. King,** an old and well-known member of the pre-war Corps. **Desmond King** will be remembered by many as the donator in 1946 of a handsome ship's bell to the Royal Signals Yacht Club, to be competed for annually. The bell currently hangs in the Princess Mary Hall at the School of Signals, Blandford. Another unofficial bell was presented by him to **'Jumbo' Charlton,** then R.Q.M.S., 1st Training Regiment. From 1929 to 1935, and then again from 1939 to 1940, **Desmond King** served as an 'Operator, Signals.' Units he served in included 3rd Divisional Signals, 1929; 1st Indian Divisional Signals, 1931, and 1st Armoured Divisional Signals, 1940. He finished in the rank of Corporal.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife, whose address is: 15, Woodbourne, Augustus Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

'The Wire' is always eager to receive items of Corps news of interest to its readers. If short, such items can be sent in by telephone or signal even after the closing date for written copy. So let us hear about anything that may be of interest—sporting successes, unusual feats by individuals, news of retired members—anything that you think should be in 'The Wire.'

Be newsminded and keep up informed (Tel. No. 01-730-4129).

We hate to say:

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

At the double!

We have been serving Her Majesty's armed forces with fine wines, spirits and cigars since the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign. So we know how to take an order. And how to carry it out at the double.

We keep an excellent cellar with a very wide range of burgundies, clarets and hocks. We take so much trouble in selecting even our *vin ordinaire* that it is quite *extraordinaire.* Our Masters of Wine see to that.

But only our trade price list can show what we have to offer. Please send for it.

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0-31

Deputy Constable of Dover Castle

By

Brigadier J. M. W. Badcock, M.B.E.

Scarcely a faraway place but certainly an unusual job. Brigadier John Badcock of the Corps, describes the historical background to his appointment as Deputy Constable of Dover Castle where he is assisted by Lance-Corporal Terry Marsh, also of the Corps, in the role of Constable's Tower Corporal — two Signallers doing two pretty unusual jobs.

Some curiosity — and amazement

ALTHOUGH I live in Kent, I am ashamed to say that I have only visited the Castle of Dover once, and then as a schoolboy. It was therefore with some curiosity (and amazement) that I heard that I was to Command 2 Infantry Brigade coupled with the appointment of Deputy Constable of Dover Castle. Shortly afterwards I happened to meet the late Mr. Gerald Reynolds (Secretary of State for Administration) who asked me what my next job was to be and when told: "2 Infantry Brigade," interjected, "oh, but you are the chap we have just decided should take over from the G.O.C., Home Counties District as the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle." I wondered what it was that necessitated consideration at such a high level.

I hastily filled in my AF 10s in application for a quarter only to be told that this was unnecessary as the Deputy Constable had the pleasure of the Constable's Tower at the Castle. This was followed by instructions to forward a copy of my armorial bearings in order that Ordance could produce my personal standard which must be flown above "my" Tower whilst in residence. It was obviously time to find out how I came to be appointed Deputy Constable of Dover Castle and what my duties were to be.

Going back 1900 years

The first record of a military presence in Kent dates back to 53 B.C. and there is evidence still visible today that well over 1900 years ago, the Romans established the first fort on the present site of Dover Castle. The Pharaos (lighthouse) which guided their ships across the Channel still stands alongside the Church of St. Mary's in the Castle which is our Garrison Church and the oldest place of Christian worship still used as such in the U.K.

Establishment of the Cinque Ports

A Century or so later Saxon invaders threatened the country and under Edward the Confessor, the five ports of Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich were granted certain legal and financial liberties as the Federation of the Cinque Ports in return for the provision and manning of ships to defend the coast and to provide safe packets for those travelling to and from the Continent. This grouping arose partly from their proximity to the Continent, partly from the fact that their boats could be converted from their normal use as herring boats to naval duties and also from the fact that the Portsmen (as they were called) were of independent (some say piratical) nature.

Origins of the Lord Warden

The Cinque Ports were governed through an "upper house" of Barons and the Court of Shepway. Presiding over these was the Lord Warden, the first of which was Godwin, Earl of Kent in 1050. At the same time, local knights and gentlemen of Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney Hastings, Rye and Winchelsea built and developed their castles which, with the naval forces, formed the predominant basis of defence against invasion. The greatest of these was Dover Castle and its strategic importance demanded that its commander was of like distinction. The origin of the term Constable is obscure but it is thought to have originated from the Roman 'Constabuli' and the Norman use of the word as a military Commander-in-Chief, who had power to hold court and dispense military justice. Since the Lord Warden presided over the Court of Shepway, which, in 1855 held peculiar jurisdiction over all who

[Courtesy Ray Warner Ltd.

THE LORD WARDEN TAKES A SALUTE

The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle—The Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies, K.T., C.H., F.R.S., Q.C.

lived and traded in the Cinque Ports or their Ancient Limbs, it was natural that the two should be combined. Thus it was that Godwin, Earl of Kent, combined the office of Lord Warden with that of Constable of Dover Castle. Succeeding him was King Harold until his death in 1066 when he in turn was replaced by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, a man of great eloquence and sagacity but who later became so obsessed with wealth that he purloined a number of estates of none other than the Archbishop of Canterbury. So the appointment has been handed down through the ages, the nominees being either Royal Princes, great men or statesmen; the list concludes with two of the greatest names in modern history, **Sir Winston Churchill** until his death and now, as the 117th Constable, **Sir Robert Menzies**, K.T., C.H., F.R.S., Q.C., Prime Minister of Australia from 1949-1966.

First Deputy Constable

The Lord Warden and Constable being a man of State could not always be in Dover. The appointment of a Deputy Constable

[Courtesy Ray Warner Ltd.

THE CEREMONY OF THE KEYS

The Keys of Dover Castle are handed by the Constable, Sir Robert Menzies, to his Deputy

was thus probably one of the earliest examples of Parkinson's Law of expansion. The first Deputy Constable was Hugh de Montfort. Of those that followed the vast majority were military men, mainly knights, but one Admiral was appointed during the end of Cromwell's reign. Since 1868, it has been a regular Army post and has nearly always been the senior Army Officer in the Dover/Shorncliffe area. So it was that I came to be appointed as the 197th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle.

Duties of the Constable

What then were the duties of the Constable and in his absence, the Deputy? In the first instance, he was, and still is the Commander-in-Chief of all forces within the Castle coupled with its security in the King's (or Queen's) name.

In the early days and particularly under the personal direction of Henry I in the 11th century, he was preoccupied with building and developing the defence of the Castle. It was he who designed the fortifications and supervised its subsequent construction. This was no mean task when the enormity of building is considered; for instance the Keep has walls 25ft. thick at their base and 100ft. high, all of solid stone. It cost £4,000 to build, a sum equivalent to several million pounds now. James Fenes (Fiennes) (Constable 1084-1111) who designed and built much of it, must have been able to do a good deal more with his salary of eight pennies a day than one can today.

The Constable contracted with local knights for each to build a certain portion of the Castle, for instance a Tower and the curtain walls between it and the next. For this, the Knight was paid so many Knight's fees according to the size and extent of the work involved. The Knight produced the requisite labour force from amongst his feudal tenants under whatever terms he thought best.

When the fortifications were built, these same knights with their men did their turn on guard duties, not for a few hours at a time but for anything up to twenty weeks during which period they were confined to the Castle. The Constable was responsible for signing them in and out, for training and testing them in their drills and musketry and for their overall discipline.

Old time administrative problems

He also commanded and administered the Garrison of the Castle which, in the 12th century, consisted of himself, his knights, their tenants, one thousand infantry and 100 horsemen. The maintenance of such a force was naturally an administrative problem, especially as the Castle had to be stocked to withstand a prolonged siege. The Constable was thus empowered to raise taxes and levies and some of these were paid in kind to foraging parties from the Castle. The following is a list of some of the stores which the Constable had to maintain:

Bread and Biscuit. Enough meal to make 1,000 loaves a day for forty days.

[Courtesy Ray Warner Ltd.

A CENTENARY DINNER

Eleven out of sixteen previous Deputy Constables still alive attended with their wives a Centenary Dinner in "my" dining room with their Lord Warden, Sir Robert and Dame Pattie Menzies. Lance-Corporal Marsh, responsible for running all such functions, can be seen top right

Wine. 800 gallons Each man to have two pints a day for forty days.

Beef, Pork and Mutton. Each man ate meat for 18 days of the month. They were:

100 casks of beef.
270 hogs.
162 casks of mutton.

Fish. For 22 days.

4,400 herrings.
1,300 cod.
6,000 stock fish (middle cod).

In addition there were stores of cheese, faggotts, turf, tall wood and fodder (for instance, 100 cart loads of hay being sufficient for 100 horses for forty days).

In return for his responsibilities and as part of his salary, he was entitled to 4d. a week from every dealer selling goods to his men, 1d. for every barrel of ale sold in the castle, 2d. in every £1 paid to the King's stipendiaries and 4d. for every lady of light character who persisted in following the camp! Fortunately the first two customs are still recognised by the tradesmen of Dover and in the latter case, any guest who brings his wife to stay with us is charged 4d. for being a camp follower: amongst these have been the C.G.S. and the Master of Signals!

Attacked on a number of occasions

During its 900 years existence, the Castle has survived all but one of the attacks made upon it. In 1067 it was attacked by the Men of Kent in league with Count Eustace of Bolougne against William the Conqueror. The Garrison successfully beat off the attack despite the fact that both the Constable and his Deputy were away at the time which probably accounts for the very comprehensive standing orders which were prepared for the Constable and his Deputy thereafter. In 1216, under

[*Courtesy Ray Warner Ltd.*

A CORPS OCCASION

The Deputy Constable's Dinner Party given on the occasion of the 96th Corps Committee Meeting held in the Constables Tower—November 1969

Hubert de Burgh, the Castle withstood a full scale assault and siege by Prince Louis of France who succeeded in getting into the Inner Bailey but no farther.

In the Civil War, a band of townfolk surreptitiously gained entry and subsequently control of the Castle for the Parliamentarians, an event which probably saved it from the mutilation that befell other great Castles at the hands of Cromwell's men. In the Napoleonic Wars, it was greatly altered; many of the towers were reduced by a third in height and strengthened so that cannons could be mounted on them and the present underground works and 50ft. dry moats surrounding the outer walls were dug at this time.

Lastly, in 1939-45 war, despite the bombing and continuous shelling of Dover from 1941-1944, little damage was done to it. It has been said that Hitler selected it as his first H.Q. in England. In it was sited the H.Q. controlling the Dunkirk evacuation and throughout the war, the coastal defences of S.E. England.

Present day arrangements

What then of the Constable and his Deputy today? **Sir Robert Menzies** spends about six weeks each year in U.K. but, since 1858 when the special jurisdiction of the Cinque Ports was removed (except in Admiralty), the appointment has been traditional and honorary. That of the Deputy still includes being Commander-in-Chief of the garrison within the Castle and of course until 1958 the Castle was a regular army barracks with seldom less than one battalion stationed in it. The traditional ceremony of the Keys no longer takes place regularly except on special occasions such as when **Sir Robert Menzies** visits the Castle. Now the Castle is the responsibility of M.P.B.W. (Ancient Monuments Department) who maintain it as a sight-seeing attraction drawing the third largest number of visitors in the country to such monuments. My duties as Deputy Constable now include assisting **Sir Robert Menzies** with any of his duties whilst in U.K., for advice in the running and organisation of the Castle, for a number of social and traditional functions concerning the Barons and the Municipal Authorities of the Cinque Ports and their Ancient Limbs and for welcoming and hosting V.I.P.s to the area.

A Centenary

One such occasion was the celebration of the fact that 1968 saw the centenary of the unbroken appointment of a regular Army officer as Deputy Constable. To mark the occasion, I invited all the past Deputy Constables who could be mustered to attend a "ceremony of the Keys" coupled with Beating of Retreat before the Lord Warden and all the Barons and officials of the Cinque Ports. This was followed by a reception in the Keep and a private dinner for the previous Deputy Constables and Lord Warden in the lovely Norman banqueting hall of the Constable's Tower.

Last November saw another historic occasion when the Corps Committee held its 96th meeting in the Tower after which the committee and their wives dined with us.

Two Signaller's and their responsibilities

This is the first time that a Royal Signals Officer, or for that matter anyone connected with communications has held this post. In my duties I am ably supported by **Lance-Corporal Marsh,** of the Corps, who has been with me as the Constable's Tower Corporal and is responsible for supervising the running and organisation of the Constable's Tower and its civilian staff. The Tower contains suits of armour, heraldic shields of all the Constables since 1050, possibly ghosts and other historic furnishings which are his perogative to look after. Dinners for 32 guests and dances for 50 are not uncommon. That he is an Electrician Driver by trade has its uses but is far from what one would normally expect in a job of this sort! It is ironic that in 2nd Infantry Brigade (currently the largest brigade in the Army), Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison and the Deputy Constable's staff there are only two signallers; he and I. Certainly an unusual and at times, a seemingly far off job in terms of history, for both of us as members of the Corps.

A Corps Liaison Officer writes of

His way out job—in an unusual place

A story of the other chap's job is written by Captain A. P. Fie'ding, Signal Training Wing, Royal Marines Barracks, Eastney, Southsea.

I AM not altogether sure that the Portsmouthians would be pleased to hear their City described as 'unusual,' but as far as the Corps is concerned it is not the most common of places to be posted, and besides, I couldn't think of any other variation on the introductory heading of articles from the outposts.

The appointment of Army Liaison Officer, Royal Marines, began twenty-one years ago, and so I thought that the more fortunate members of the Corps who have had the pleasure of holding this appointment would be interested to know that the title has now passed into history.

The nature of the appointment has changed considerably from its original concept of instructor (with the peripheral task of keeping an eye on the Corps yacht), to that of advisor to the Royal Marines on Army communications equipment and policy—without the Corps yacht unfortunately!

A job which involves detailed planning . . .

The present function involves the detailed planning and costing of future communication requirements for the Royal Marines, and, in turn, necessitates visits to industry and close liaison with all MOD departments, of all services, connected with Signals matters. Although one is based at Eastney, in the impressively gaunt Victorian barracks on the sea front, at least one day a week is spent in London, where one has a 'half desk' in the AQ side of Commandant General Royal

Captain A. P. Fielding the writer of this article presents Major J. H. Haycock, Chief Signal Officer Royal Marines, with a commemorative Corps plaque, on behalf of himself and previous Corps Liaison Officers who have held the appointment

Marines' Staff. One also has constant liaison with other arm schools, JWE, SRDE, FVRDE, etc., as well as R.N. and R.M. units in U.K. All this gives one a fascinating insight into the workings of the great Service machine, and for a change, one can be far more understanding of the 'They' who so often to field units appear to exist only to veto essential requests!

Persuading their Lordships to allot money

The briefings one is then able to give the Chief Signal Officer, Royal Marines, allows him to determine his policy. Although the Royal Marines are essentially a part of the Navy, the majority of their equipment is Army. It was therefore found more convenient to justify the signals requirements to the ATCC rather than the Navy. This is where the ball comes back into this court, for one then has to do the detailed costing of all projected equipment required during the next ten years, persuade 'their Lordships' that they ought to allot this money (anything up to a million pound annually), write the justification under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer, and ultimately arrange release. It is usually at this point one is brought back soundly to earth when in the midst of 'noughts,' a travel claim is returned drawing one's attention to the fact that the most direct route is three miles shorter than that claimed.

There is also the out-of-office aspect of the appointment; because of the unique role of the Royal Marines, most new equipment must be able to withstand being submerged, swum, canoed, parachuted and heliborne, as well as the frequent requirement to fit it into landing or light assault craft. This is a great occupation in summer, but one's enthusiasm wanes slightly during the winter!

When all these functions, plus a few others, were considered, it was apparent that the appointment was somewhat more than an ERE instructional post, and it was therefore re-graded as GSO3 (Signals). The re-grading as an MS appointment was confirmed in October.

The appointment has now come of age

So the appointment of Army Liaison Officer, Royal Marines, having come of age, been eliminated and reincarnated as a G3, all within a space of a few MS paragraphs, I thought it sufficiently noteworthy to present the Chief Signal Officer, Royal Marines, **Major J. H. Haycock, R.M.,** with a commemorative plaque on behalf of myself and previous Army Liaison Officers, coupled with the hope that a rose by any other name . . . or perhaps a case of ALO and goodbye . . . ?

On that appalling pun I will depart—anyway, it's almost stand-easy, and there's talk of a run ashore during the make-and-mend . . .

Account Rendered

Heading Home from Northern Ireland

Some Thoughts in retrospect by W.O.I (F. of S.) A. R. Jarratt, of 14th Signal Regiment

THE panic subsides, the shouting dies down and office tumult dwindles; office windows, so long ablaze with light, now fall dark again at weekends and 'B' Troop, having seen to completion the setting up of a static version of their own airportable equipment, switch off at last and prepare to dismantle and head for home.

This latest job well done featured 16 weeks of continuous operation, which far outstrips anything in the Troop's history, and gave us new information on the durability of the various equipments involved.

Mention must also be made of our unsung heroes. Although about half the detachment were able to return home after the first few weeks, those in at the finish were **Corporals Dickinson, Maxwell** and **Horan,** and **Lance-Corporals Bell** and **Tynan,** all of whom had trod the three-shift treadmill from the day we arrived. Also our jolly lineman, **Lance-Corporal Ken Cowsill,** goalkeeper extraordinary, and lately, Guinness connoisseur.

. . . ending with a sad tale of misunderstanding

We end with a tale of misunderstanding. Soon after our arrival, we were asked to provide an 80ft. mast on the local sports field, which is the helicopter landing site, to support a guide light for the helicopter pilots. This we did, and all went well until our departure date drew near, when the Foreman demanded the mast back. No other being available, the BASO was asked whether the lamp was still needed, now that the landing field is floodlit. We don't know who passed this query for us, but herewith BASO's reply:

"It seems a little late to object to a lamp which has stood on top of the mast for three months.

It's a pity the mast couldn't have been built elsewhere, then the lamp would not have been needed."

The price of generosity!

Automation comes to 229 Signal Squadron

By Captain (T.O.T.) N. A. Cox

I SUPPOSE it was inevitable really, with all these space craft orbiting the earth, and with man now even more firmly established on earth's own planet moon.

No one is really quite certain when 'Merlin' actually joined us but, at any rate, he is now firmly established in the Squadron and proving a very willing 'body' in helping with the forthcoming Christmas social functions. (For the record, we have been promised *active* support with the Squadron's children's party and the unit social/dance, also it is rumoured that he is to make an appearance at the Brigade Sergeants' Mess draw).

To be perfectly honest, though, he is also providing something of a headache to the powers-that-be in Squadron H.Q. No one outside 'M' Troop seems to have had any prior warning of 'Merlin' joining 229 and, what with his being held 'surplus to establishment' and not even trade qualified, as yet, he is causing a few grey hairs. We are only hoping that this position can be regularised in discussions with Officer-in-Charge Records when he visits the Squadron early next year.

I expect by now everyone is wondering "who on earth is 'Merlin?' Perhaps as this juncture, I should mention that 'Merlin' is the robot brain-child of **F. of S. Terry Jones,** who, with the very expert help of the radio technicians of 'M' Troop and our civilian draughtsman and general handyman, **Herr Janssen,** has been responsible for his 'conception.'

Perhaps a few vital statistics (or should they be specifications for a robot?) might be of interest to readers: Height, 2 m. (inc. antenna); weight, 150 kg.; chest, 160 cm.; waist, 160 cm.; hips, 160 cm. Functions: Speaks, listens, moves, electronic brain computing.

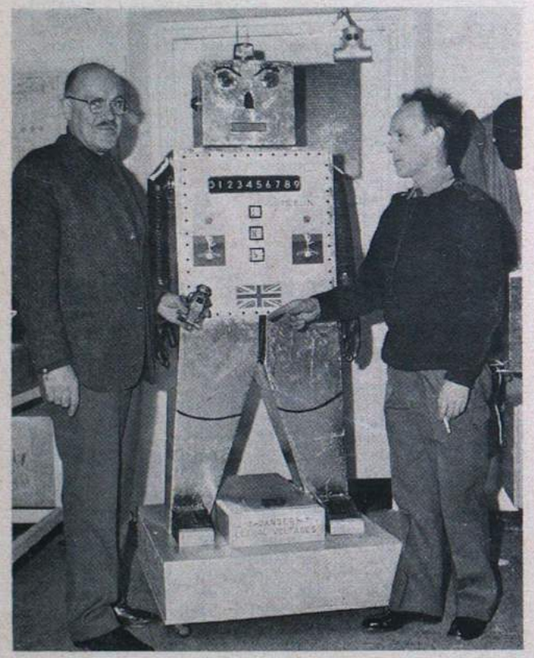
Incidentally, 'Merlin's' electronic guidance system or 'brain' is contained mainly within the central part of his body; perhaps in his case it is quite correct to say that he "always has his mind on his stomach."

Naturally, we are most anxious to make the most of his obviously very superior talents, not the least of which is his ability to produce series of completely random numbers for raffles, etc., and portray these, suitably illuminated, on his chest (see photograph). For the technical, **Foreman Jones** tells me that the secret lies in a transistorised trigger circuit/random counter, together with a conglomeration of uniselector and stepping relays. Who knows, perhaps in the not-too-far-distant future the Training Brigade will be turning out technicians, radio, electronic *and* robot!

In conclusion, perhaps I ought to let you into a secret; one thing is causing a little anxiety. In order to prepare him for promotion (which we feel *must* come eventually), we have to push him through a military proficiency course. With his intellectual superiority, the Army Certificate of Education and technician upgrading qualifications present no difficulties whatsoever, but skill-at-arms for MPC! . . . *and* not forgetting P.E. tests! . . . oh well, I suppose he *could* remain as the most highly-qualified Signalman. But please, don't let on anyone, will you!

* * *

'Merlin's' fame is growing rapidly. He (or it) have already appeared in the FBS programme 'Time Out' and he (or it) has made a personal appearance on the American Armed Forces' Television network, in their programme 'Pot Pourri.'



THIS IS MERLIN . . .
He (or it) can easily claim to be the most highly qualified Signalman in the Corps, flanked by two of his (or its) creators: Herr Janssen (left) and Staff-Sergeant F.o.S. T. Jones

8th Signal Regiment run six-week courses

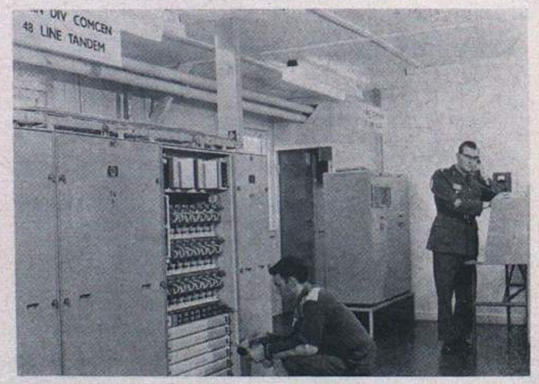
"Bruin Auto" comes to Catterick

8th Signal Regiment is now equipped to teach 'Bruin Auto' equipment to the technicians of the Corps. This sophisticated automatic telephone equipment has been in use for over two years in 1 (BR) Corps and there has been a definite need for courses of instruction on this subject. Up till now, units in B.A.O.R. have had to train their own technicians on the spot. However, from November, 1969, special 'Bruin Auto' courses of six weeks' duration were started by 8th Regiment, these courses being specifically designed for technicians working with or being posted to units using 'Bruin Auto.' Our first pilot course commenced at the beginning of November.

The equipment has been installed in the form of a 'divisional area,' consisting of two communication centres; and three brigade, divisional main and rear H.Q. comheads. All link, tie line, and both-way junction circuits have been wired with switchable faults, so the emphasis will be on adjustment, fault-finding and system engineering.

The installation of the system took a total of three months, and was carried out on a self-help basis by the instructors of Terminal Group. The installation team consisted of **Corporal Seaton, Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal ('Geordie') Spires** and **Signalman Ulph,** led by **W.O.II (F. of S.) Pete Steep'es.** As usual, our time margin was a narrow one, but the installation was complete and tested out in time for the annual FFR inspection. The Inspecting Officer, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass,** set up calls through the system, using the preference facility. The group supervisor, **Lieutenant B. T. O'Connor,** heaved a sigh of relief when the calls were successful. **F. of S. Steeples** had his heart in his mouth when the C.O. decided to trombone up and down the system several times. Fortunately, all went well, and the Foreman started breathing again.

The 'Bruin Auto' instructors will be **F. of S. Steeples, Sergeant Ross, Mr. Ted Ashworth** and **Corporal Seaton.** With the exception of **Foreman Steeples,** all the instructors attended a six-week course run by the manufacturers at Beeston; and since then have been preparing their lectures. The mountain of circuit diagrams, OPP-release charts, and precis grew steadily, and we were ready to greet our first course at the beginning of November, which consisted solely of personnel from B.A.O.R. It is hoped that these courses will be of real assistance to units employing 'Bruin Auto' equipment.



"CHECKING THE PREFERENCE"
Foreman Steeples and Sergeant Ross routine test the Bruin Auto System

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THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially (normal Welfare) in December, 1969	52	
Number of special Christmas grants	117	
	169	
Amount spent in normal Welfare cases ...	£958	12 8
Amount spent in Christmas grants	£356	0 0
	£1,314	12 8
Number of parcels sent out during December	74	

One of the Month's Cases

EX-DRIVER, war-time service. His only daughter died suddenly two years ago at the age of 17, and, shortly afterwards, he fell ill, and, after a long and distressing illness during which his wife nursed him devotedly, he died last month. The Association helped with comforts during his illness, and, after his death, a grant of £15 was made to the widow to enable her to obtain a very badly needed new bed and bedding. A small cash Christmas grant was also sent to her.

One of the Month's Letters

"MY husband and I would like to express our gratitude for the money received for Christmas, which is indeed appreciated, though one cannot always express it in words. The children were delighted with their Christmas parcel. My husband has asked me to say that this has been the best year for a long time, with our financial worries off our shoulders because of the help that the Association has given us, and for which we shall always be grateful."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Thank You!

Since the beginning of October, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been most gratefully received from the following:

Captain Swallow, W.R.A.C., K. J. Williams, Esq., Colonel R. M. Adams, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass, Major and Mrs. J. L. Donne, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. R. Hamer, A. W. Smith, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood, Major M. H. Priestley, The Ladies of Hildesheim Garrison, Captain N. A. V. Ribchester, Mr. and Mrs. N. Church, Major-General M. D. Price, Major and Mrs. C. J. Bayfield, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. H. Napper, Major I. E. Simpson.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. A. Horner, Major J. F. Stokes, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Maxted, Corporal J. A. Lund, Major J. W. Swindells, Sergeant and Mrs. Spratt, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. D. Farr, Lieutenant-Colonel, E. R. Nanney-Wynn, D.L., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. G. D. T. Harris, Major A. M. Keeling, Hannover Station Thrift Shop, G. J. Feakes, Esq., Mrs. J. Power, Major-General R. J. Moberly, Mrs. E. Fiadgate, F. C. Wilson, Esq., Major D. J. D. McKail, Mrs. Torrin.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow, Colonel E. J. Bardell, Major and Mrs. A. E. Carter, H. Gillibrand, Esq., Mrs. Mather, Lady Scott, J. F. Benson, Esq., Colonel and Mrs. I. G. Swan, Major and Mrs. D. S. Hackworth, Mrs. V. Heath, Roger and Sarah Crowder, C. Austin, Esq., Corporal Sanders, Brigadier and Mrs. C. H. Stoneley, Mrs. J. R. West, Mrs. A. S. Rawson.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during December, 1969:

	£	s.	d.
21st Regiment (A.S.)	101	18	6
The Smith Trustee Co. Ltd. (for Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Stanley)	10	10	0
Mr. F. C. Wilson	5	3	6
Mr. J. F. Benson	5	0	0
Mr. C. Austin	3	0	0
Mr. H. Liley	2	16	0
Mr. P. B. Robinson		18	0
Various individual donations		8	6
Huddersfield Branch Royal Signals Association	5	0	0
Total Receipts ...	£134	14	6
Expenditure during December, 1969	£1,314	12	8

Royal Signals Demonstration Team

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

THE Royal Signals Demonstration Team makes its annual report to the Corps with harrowing tales of our labours and sufferings. Unlike a certain northern display team, we do not boast of our amorous conquests in the pages of THE WIRE, for our modesty is only exceeded by our furtiveness!

Providing the Oysters for the Pearls

In January, 1969, we did our last demonstration at Camberley to students of the Staff College, and in December we did our last demonstration at Camberley to Sandhurst cadets. In future, both will come to the fount of all knowledge, the School, for whatever pearls are available for casting before them. As usual though, the Demonstartion Team will provide the oysters for the pearls.

'Quicksilver' went out on tour on 1st May, to sunny Clacton. Some of the team were booked into a holiday camp chalet, and the brochure, telling of film shows and dances, had inspired high hopes. Of course, with our luck, the summer festivities had not yet started, and it was more like a weekend training camp! Early May is Clacton's time for cheap holidays for spastics and old age pensioners, so instead of gripping youths on Aden, Borneo and Cyprus, we were gripped for many hours on the Somme, Ypres and El Alamein—the biter bit.

During the summer we did some 30 shows, from Falkirk to Brockenhurst and Preston to Ipswich. These included the major displays of 'New Envoy' at Aldershot and 'Armex' at Manchester, where the M.P.B.W. showed a 'typical' soldier's bedspace with G-Plan wardrobe and a pin-up board. Needless to say, the team were accommodated at the time in two-tier bunks in Ladysmith Barracks—a barracks so evil that though the Army had sold it, we were let back into it without quibble.

We cannot pretend that life is anything but enjoyable

We cannot pretend, however, that life on 'Quicksilver' is other than thoroughly enjoyable. The display tent would go up as if by magic as soon as **Staff Sergeant Miller** waved his wand; in fact, he got so good at it that he was promoted and sent to 3rd Division, as soon as they asked for a magician. To see **Corporal Tom May** 'shooting his line' to a crowd of teen-agers is an education that would stun any con man, in fact he's now off on promotion to join the professionals as a Recruiter. To see **Lance-Corporal 'Ginger' Turner** elegantly driving his 3-tonner into a Rover 2000 is a sight to bring tears to any M.T.O., but our M.T.O. was cheered by a letter from the civilian driver saying that **Turner** was so frightfully decent about it that could we please disregard the accident!

The four W.R.A.C. girls of the team were, as ever, charming and attractive; so much so, that **Corporal Roger Smith** has become engaged to **Private Chris Land**; we wish them every happiness. We are now reduced to trying to marry off our last surviving bachelor, 'Magnetron.' He is one of the hardest worked members of the team; amongst his embarrassing questions this year were: "When will I get my sight back?" and "When will I get a new Daddy?"

'Quicksilver' members this year have been midnight bathing at Gatehouse-of-Fleet, 'go-go' dancing in Hull and drinking with television stars in London. The team's personnel are now posted direct by Royal Signals Records, so if YOU are happy in the Army, self-confident, and feel you have something to offer the youth of the nation, don't delay, apply to your C.O. now!

After a final month of making an exhibition of ourselves at the Army Careers Information Office in the Strand, the 'Quicksilver' team has returned to Blandford Camp, and as I write, I hear their voices raised in ribald song as they enthusiastically scrub the urinals—how are the mighty fallen! We have started doing mini-demonstrations to local schools, and our latest success was 'Magnetron's' appearance on BBC Television, when he educated visiting schoolmasters on life with the Royal Signals.

In closing . . .

In closing, we welcome **Captain W. H. Backhouse** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S). Dyer** to the team and wish good luck to **Corporal Brian Hobbs,** posted to 22nd Signal Regiment; **Sergeant John Hume,** posted to SHAPE; **Lance-Corporal Michael Glennon,** off to 12 Infantry Brigade, and **Corporal David Filson** and **Signalman 'Ner' Pearce,** off to 'Civvy Street.' The late O.C. 'Quicksilver,' **Captain D. W. Stubbs,** is posted to the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, where we hope he will lead a more restful life.

Film Club does good work

The School of Signals Film Club organised a charity variety show in the Princess Mary Hall on 14th December, 1969. The artistes, all of whom gave their services free, performed to an enthusiastic audience, which included the Commandant, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** cadre and civilian staff, and old age pensioners from Castlemain House, Blandford.

Due to the generosity of the artistes, and the co-operation of the various agencies, over £38 was raised for Christmas food parcels. These were distributed to old and needy people in the Blandford area by **Staff Sergeant D. G. Roberts,** the secretary of the Film Club.

Special mention must be made of **Staff Sergeant D. G. Roberts** on whom fell the bulk of the work, worry and frustration in organising and producing the show, and the subsequent distribution of the Christmas food parcels.

Our photograph shows **Staff Sergeant Roberts** with some of the old people whose Christmas was made happier by his efforts.

A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE OLD FOLK
Staff Sergeant D. G. Roberts distributing a little Christmas Cheer to Mr. and Mrs. Lane of Albert Street, Blandford. Over £38 was raised by the School of Signals Film Club for distribution as Christmas food parcels

Schools Symposium

Schoolmasters from all over South-West England spent a day at school with the Army, when they attended a 'Schools Symposium' at the School of Signals on 4th December, 1969. The secondary school teachers included eight headmasters, two deputy headmasters and ten careers masters, and with them were nine careers officers from the Ministry of Labour.

The principal speaker was **Brigadier A. J. Wilson, C.B.E., M.C., B.A.,** Director of Army Recruiting, and his address on 'The Role of Services in the 1970s' was followed by presentations on 'The Role of Royal Signals' and 'A Career in Royal Signals,' in Princess Mary Hall. Then, after lunch in H.Q. Mess, the visitors saw detachments from 14th Regiment and 30th Regiment and the 'Quicksilver' Display. Part of this was shown on B.B.C. Television in 'South Today,' which, in fact, formed a valuable advertisement for the Army in general and for Royal Signals in particular. The day concluded with a 'Quiz and Discussion Period,' when a keen and interested audience introduced a wide range of topics covering promotion prospects, commissions, training at the Army Apprentices' College and at Catterick, and transfers between Corps in the Army. Curiously enough, only one of the visitors (so far as is known) had served in Royal Signals.

The proceedings concluded with tea in the Museum.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

GRADUATION DAY, WINTER, 1969

ON Wednesday, 10th December, we held our last Graduation Day of the decade. To mark the occasion, some 700 apprentices paraded in honour of 52 of their comrades, leaving to join the regular ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals.

The parade was commanded by **A/T R.S.M. Stephen Bailes,** a 19-year-old telegraph operator from Sunderland, who has represented the Army Junior XV at rugby and was also selected for the Army Junior Judo Team.

Reviewing Officer on the day was **Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command; the Mayor of Harrogate, **Councillor Edwin Pickard,** also attended with the Mayoress.

During the parade, the Reviewing Officer presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.II William Grierson,** S.S.M. of Permanent Staff Squadron, and to **C.S.M.I. Eric Costall,** A.P.T.C., Warrant Officer-in-charge of P.T. at the College.

After the parade came prizegiving, notable for the apt 'sureness and swiftness' with which it was conducted.

The Commandant, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry,** welcomed the guests, especially the parents, wives and sweethearts of the Senior Term; outlined our not inconsiderable achievements, academic and very much otherwise; bade farewell to **Major (Staff Q.M.) Trevor Luscombe,** after 38 years in Royal Signals, and five at the College, and to the retiring S.E.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Foster;** and introduced the Reviewing Officer who, said **Colonel Barry,** stood as a shining exmaple to all young men. **General Blacker,** we were reminded, was formerly an Olympic Pentathlete and had frequently represented his country in show-jumping, riding his bold and brilliant 'Workboy.'

In presenting the prizes, the Reviewing Officer reminded his audience of the words spoken 50 years ago by **Field Marshal 'Wull'e' Robertson,** but still very pertinent today: "Speak the truth; think of others; and don't dawdle." He went on to congratulate the College on the high standard of the parade and was most impressed that the whole thing was done by the apprentices themselves, which made him "wonder why all these senior officers are necessary—apart, of course, from Generals."

In conclusion, **General Blacker** offered his audience a most valuable piece of advice: "Always expect one thing—the unexpected."

The following major prizes were presented:

Army Commander's Prize (for all-round excellence): **A/T R.S.M. J. S. Bailes.**

Commandant's Prize (for conduct, discipline and example): **A/T S.S.M. William Paterson.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award (for the best all-round tradesman): **A/T Corporal Sean McHale-Smith.**

Colonel Commandant's Award (for the best soldier/tradesman): **A/T S.S.M. Thomas McCorkell**

'I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING AT THE COLLEGE MYSELF SOON, SIR"

The younger brother of A/T R.S.M. J. S. Bailes who received the Army Commander's prize for "all round excellence," gets a handshake from the Reviewing Officer, Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command after the Graduation Day Parade. On the left of the photo: members of A/T R.S.M. Bailes family

Prizes awarded by the Royal Corps of Signals Committee:

Best Radio Technician: **A/T Sergeant Kim Bryden.**

Best Terminal Equipment Technician: **A/T S.S.M. Michael Duffin.**

Best Radio Relay Technician: **A/T Corporal Sean McHale-Smith.**

Best Telegraph Operator: **A/T Thomas Crawford.**

The Champion Squadron Cup: Scott Squadron (**A/T S.S.M. V. P. Baines**).

NEW SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER

From 2nd January, the beginning of the Spring term, the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has had a new Senior Education Officer, in the person of **Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ('Faddy') Furniss, M.A.,** R.A.E.C.

As Senior Education Officer at the College, **Colonel Furniss** is responsible to the Commandant for the academic education of up to 1,000 Army Apprentices destined for the Royal Corps of Signals, and for the organisation and administration of their leisure activities. To assist him, he has a staff of 31 civilian lecturers and officer instructors of the Royal Army Educational Corps.

Colonel Furniss relieves **Lieutenant-Colonel R. Foster, B.Sc.,** R.A.E.C., who had been at the College for slightly less than two years, and has retired from the Army to become Principal of an Industrial Training College.

THE FIRST SPECIAL OPERATOR TO BE COMMISSIONED

On 29th December, the first Special Operator ever to do so received the Queen's Commission as Traffic Officer (Radio). He is **W.O.I Alan George Maxwell, M.B.E.,** aged 36, whose home is at 62, Stenhouse Place East, Edinburgh. Granted the immediate rank of Captain, he is now serving with 13th Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R.

Captain Maxwell enlisted on 6th March, 1950, in the then Boys' Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals, at Richmond, in Yorkshire. From here he was selected for training as a Special Operator at Loughborough. Most of his subsequent service has been spent in the Near or Middle East and Germany, but he has also served on the staff of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Signals, and with the Aden Protectorate Levies.

He came to the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, in May, 1969, to start the training of Apprentice Special Operators—a new venture for the College. Their apprenticeship is designed to last two years and the first class has consisted of 18 apprentices; it is hoped in future to increase the annual output to 54.

Captain Maxwell was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services with 9th Signal Regiment between 1965 and 1968.

MR. FRED MOUNT RETIRES

The last month of the last decade brought with it the retirement of the College's oldest inhabitant on the Instructional Staff, **Mr. Fred Mount,** who had taught Workshop Practice at the College for the past 22 years.

To mark the occasion of his retirement and as an expression of our gratitude and affection, the Commandant, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry,** presented him, on behalf of the staff and students, with a silver salver and a plaque of the Corps badge.

Nor is **Mr. Mount** the only long-serving member of the family at the College: his wife, **Dorothy,** who joined the Pay Office staff as a temporary measure, has now been there for nearly nineteen years. Indeed, it has been said that Fred has not so much left the College as merely undertaken a Change of Trade; he now acts as his wife's chauffeur! They have one son, Rodney, at present Sub-Principal Oboe and Cor Anglais with the B.B.C. Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

This is clearly a talent inherited from father: Fred has for over twenty years been First Violin and pianist with the Harrogate String Orchestra. He was, too, for 21 years, on the committee of the Harrogate Operatic Society.

Now living at 18, Tentergate Gardens, Knaresborough, and an unbelievable 66, **Mr. Mount** hopes to continue teaching, at least part-time, but from now on, music, rather than metal-work—"just," he says, "to keep me young."

TWENTY-TWO YEARS WITH THE COLLEGE

Mr. Fred Mount retiring after 22 years on the Instructional Staff of the College receives a silver salver from the Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry

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.

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

"WE CHANGE OUR GENERAL"

Farewell to our G.O.C.

INTERMINGLED with the numerous seasonal engagements, we had the sad duty of bidding farewell to the Divisional Commander, **Major-General A. M. Taylor, M.C.**

The General was dined-out in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on 17th December; the Officers' Mess on 2nd January, and he very kindly threw an enormous cocktail party for everyone in the Officers' Mess on 3rd January. He was presented with two heavy cut-glass decanters, bearing Division and Signals crests, from the Regimental Officers as a 'Christmas present.'

A farewell parade was held on a snow-covered Caithness square on 19th December. During the parade the G.O.C. presented four Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, one of which was to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) J. G. Turner,** Royal Signals. The other medals were presented to **W.O.I I. J. P. Foole,** R.M.P.; **S.Q.M.C. P. C. Woods,** The Blues and Royals, and **Sergeant R. Weight,** R.A.

Welcome to the new G.O.C.

The arrival of the new G.O.C., **Major-General J. W. Harman, O.B.E., M.C.,** was marked by a quarter guard at the gates of Sheil Barracks on 7th January.

1st Division Hockey Final

On Wednesday, 10th December, the Regiment defeated 21st Engineer Regiment 2—1 in the Divisional hockey final. Although the Sappers took an early lead from a short corner, the Regiment fought back strongly to score two goals in ninety seconds, just on half-time. The goalscorers were **Sergeant Cook** and **Lance-Corporal Raybould.** The second half provided plenty of excitement, and although no more goals were scored, the Regiment ran out worthy winners.

The cup was presented by the G.O.C. **Major-General A. M. Taylor, M.C.,** and was thoroughly wetted at an unforgettable party in a Verden gasthaus the following evening.

DL2VR Resuscitated

The unit amateur radio station DL2VR was put on the air for the first time for many years during the Anglo-German Weekend, held in Verden on 6th September.

The station displayed QSL cards from many countries, and equipment used included an American Swan transceiver and a British KW transceiver. The focal point of the stand was a large map of the world showing the countries contacted that day, including many members of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.

Operating the station were **Signalman Clive Dodd** (DL5ZZ), **Sergeant John Brown-Greaves** (DL5YS), **W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) John Worrall** (DL2AH) and **Staff Sergeant Ray Vasper** (DL5YT).

During the afternoon the station was visited by the G.O.C. and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. MacFarlane.** They spent several minutes studying the station and listening to contacts over the loudspeakers.

Since September, the station has been operating teleprinter, achieving contacts in Spain, Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany and Russia.

Staff Sergeant Vasper now has visible evidence of his contact with Apollo XI from Kennedy Space Center, in the form of a special certificate that has been suitably framed.

DL 2 VR RESUSCITATED

Sergeant Brown-Greave — Signalman Dodd

Staff Sergeant Vasper — W.O.II Worrall

Anglo-German Weekend 6th September 1969

Verden Garrison Stamp Club

There is a growing interest in the absorbing hobby of stamp collecting (philately) in the Garrison, and contacts to exchange stamps are required world wide.

Considerable stocks of stamps are held. Who knows? We may just have that elusive stamp that you have been searching for. The club caters for all collectors, from the absolute beginners to the advanced collector, and can supply albums at greatly reduced prices.

Let us know your wants and exchanges.

Contact: **W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. L. Coleman,** 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32.

2 SQUADRON

Exercise 'Cold Feet'

Snow, a biting wind and sub-zero temperatures were encountered by some 400 troops of 1st Division in an escape and evasion exercise in December in the Solling Mountains area. Apart from providing administration and participating teams, Royal Signals established all VHF control communications for the exercise.

In the luxurious comfort of central heating and fresh rations, while substations suffered the cold and compo, sat the control station manned by **Second-Lieutenant Tony Gibb, Corporal Bill Earl** and **Signalman Merv Horsfall.** Communications were very good, greatly helped by **Second-Lieutenant Neil Donaldson** and his merry 'Rebros' (they suffered one mishap when **Corporal Kit Carson** took on fresh rations by driving his vehicle into a local apple dump. Recovery took some time).

The incentive for the escapees, aparting from drinking 18 gallons of rum during the exercise, was two weeks' leave in the U.K. with free passage for the farthest team.

Apart from a few minor casualties, mainly due to exposure, all competitors finished in very good spirits.

* * *

Corporal Maurice Platts has obviously got his head screwed on the right way. He found that the best way to evade the G.O.C.'s farwell parade was to break his leg at the A2/A4 Christmas party.

The following Saturday, with leg in plaster, he performed at the Corporals' Mess Christmas draw. This after the R.S.M. had left.

3 SQUADRON

During the summer of 1969, the Squadron Commander, **Major H. S. Wilson,** made a public-spirited gesture and allowed us to adopt the most lonely soul in Verden Garrison, a young son of the soil named **John Turner,** shy by nature and R.S.M. by profession. Our guardianship has now been running for some six months and day by day we become more proud of our Squadron pet. For our own part of the relationship, we give him frequent cups of coffee and many reminders of where his loyalty should lie. In return, all we ask is that he aims less than our fair share of Regimental duties at the Squadron, and at all times puts in a good word for us with the more important godlike occupants of R.H.Q. We offer this snippet of information as our Squadron notes in the hope that it may be read by whoever is fortunate enough to be selected as a relief for **Mr. Turner** in the 1st Regiment. Play your cards right and the warmth of 3 Squadron will be open to you.

Members of 2 Squadron 4 Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment pose with their old chums, the ACV's, before the latter are "posted" after two years' faithful service

On vehicle:—Driver Roy Preston, Signalman Phil Budden, Lance-Corporal Bill Hutton, Signalman Barny Barnard
Standing:—Signalmen Jas Hynd and Neal Hurst
Squatting:—Signalmen Geordie Scott, Mick Mallinson and Graham Shaw

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

Majors change

WE said farewell to three Majors, all of whom departed within a fortnight—**Majors Ted Andrews, Desmond Lavender** and **Mike Ellis,** all found their way to U.K. Their respective replacements are **Majors David Anthonisz** (S.O.2 Signals), **'Paddy' Verdon** (O.C. 1 Squadron) and **Brian Clarke,** R.T.R. (O.C., H.Q. Squadron). We trust their stay here will be enjoyable and successful.

Major changes!

We have lost our three ACVs, which have, for two years, been 2 Squadron's pride and joy. No longer do we see **Corporal Chas Birchall, Lance-Corporal Terry Deakin** and **Signalman Mick Mallison** peering through the tiny windscreens, confidently knowing that their progress is unlikely to be impeded.

However, our armoured element has not vanished *in toto*. We are retaining eight AFV 432s and, by some judicious juggling, plan to provide our G.O.C. with an armoured Rover Group in the field. Hence 'the different Division' maintains its reputation!

Replanning the field headquarters wiring and re-equipping the vehicles to the staff's requirements is keeping many people occupied. It looks likely to remain that way until we depart on our first exercise in February.

A change in our barrack organisation is that 'Mike' Troop has been disbanded. All the Foremen and technicians now belong to the three communicating Squadrons. The Troop's Christmas party, therefore, served a dual purpose and was celebrated in an appropriate manner.

Christmas festivities

All our customary festivities came and went without any undue 'hiccups!' In addition to the entertainment arranged by, and for, the various Messes, we had a new venture, in the form of a Regimental Revue. This consisted of 2½ hours of non-stop laughter and fun. No one, but no one, escaped a little cynicism in amusing skits and songs. **Second-Lieutenant Chris Barnes** was the hardworking organiser, and his enthusiasm was not daunted by the many difficulties leading up to the show and the usual dress rehearsal snags. The songs were, in the main, composed by **Captain Jack Wishart** of our education branch. **Corporal Peter Tarrant** demonstrated his potential as a compere, and found an attractive leading lady with a figure very akin to **Staff Sergeant Fred Brudenall.** The lads of M.T. Troop made a real hit as the chorus—'Can-Can' being their speciality. The whole cast deserves praise for their efforts, and the revue will undoubtedly take to the stage again next Christmas. The talent spotters are already at work!

Quadrant Club

Our JRC was recently adjudged the best club of forty in the area by a NAAFI panel and, as a result, the manager, **Mr. Harris,** was presented with a cheque of DMs 250 for his staff fund. This award was the result of **Mr. Harris's** enthusiasm and energetic approach and, in our view, well deserved.

Most of the Squadron and Troop Christmas parties were held in the club, and a most congenial atmosphere prevailed over them all.

THIS JUST MEANS—THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
The Commanding Officer and P.R.I. join the Quadrant Club Staff for the presentation to the Club Manager Mr. Harris

Squash

Winter weather has brought field games to a standstill, and so the squash court has been in regular use, and there is no doubt that the standards are going up by leaps and bounds. **Lance-Corporal Bill Hutton** is playing very well and is planning to enter the B.A.O.R. Championships. We wish him luck, particularly in the soldiers' event.

3 Squadron have a flourishing ladder up which **Signalman Fred Fry** has climbed rapidly.

The Pay Office Staff are also showing extreme keenness, and their ambition is to beat the Paymaster, **Major Laurie Sharp—Sergeant Paddy Cummings** has already achieved this.

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

ALL of a sudden people were putting up decorations and shifting furniture back and forth and the cooks were busy with buffets. It was Christmas. Amongst those most heavily involved in the preparations were **W.O.I (F. of S.) Pete Hutley,** assisted by **S.S.M. Brian Hill,** who organised the all ranks' draw and dance, **S.S.M. 'Chalky' White,** who masterminded the children's Christmas party with the help of **W.O.II Miller,** a most successful Father Christmas, **S.S.M. Bill Clarke** who laid on the Carol Service with the help of 'M' Troop, and **S.S.M. John Shields** who, with the aid of Divisional H.Q. Squadron, prepared the dining room for Christmas dinner. The cooks, of course, led by **Lieutenant Mansell-Ward, Q.M.S. 'Taff' Hill** and **Sergeant Shanks,** performed their usual miracles, and everyone, including the children, had a good 'scoff.'

'Think Tanks'

We have been holding 'think Tanks' and 'brain storming' sessions working out the new organisation of the Regiment with the changed emphasis in our role. **Major Woodbridge,** our Second-in-Command, has had his hands full with new staff tables, etc. Roll on the day when we all know what Squadron we are in and the dust has settled.

We welcome **Major Watson** and **Major Holland** who have come to command 1 and 2 Squadrons respectively. We also welcome **Captain Thorne,** our new Adjutant. It's farewell to **Major Byrne** and **Captain Genders,** who are off to M.O.D. and H.Q. 4 Division respectively. It is certainly all change in 3 Signals at the moment.

All in all, as the Commanding Officer told us in his Christmas message, it has been a frustrating year, what with the cancellation of our major exercise and the Northern Ireland operation, but we are looking forward to 1970 with high hopes.

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

Christmas

CHRISTMAS festivities this year started on the 6th December, and the momentum is being carried on by those intrepid Scots celebrating Hogmanay. Club dances and Mess nights abounded, and the Wives' Club held a successful dinner in the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess. There was a Mickey Hayes show on the 15th December where the enthusiastic applause showed that the Turkey Leg is not the only one that warrants appreciation at Christmas. The 20th December saw the Children's Christmas Party. It has been variously described as wonderful, bedlam, great and terrifying. Children were screaming, cakes flying, whilst fond mums turned ashen white at the sight of little Mary being covered from head to toe in jelly. Fathers must have had to pour a lot of stiff drinks when battle closed at five-thirty. Our thanks are duet to **W.O.II's Stuckey** and **Hehir** for promoting the fight, to the catering staff who provided the inter-round refreshments, and to **Signalmen Stanley Eld, Pat Dee** and the remainder of the Restaurant Work Party who salvaged the arena at the end.

Exercise 'Pole Star II'

by **Signalman Snow (4 Squadron)**

It was a cold, wet morning when **Sergeant Ken King, Corporal Harry Bishop** and myself finished preparing our Land Rover for the Regimental Safe Driving Competition. This is an annual competition for the Safe Driving Cup presented by 2 Squadron in memory of three soldiers killed in a road accident just outside the camp gates in 1966. As usual **Major Ian Spear** organised the 24 hour, 420 mile event, in the form of a rally.

Initially the vehicles were scrutinised for road worthiness and unofficial modifications. Our vehicle was passed so we set off on stage one, which was followed by a 'Loops' stage resulting in the Rovers going round in ever decreasing circles. The next few stages were easier than expected and at one stop **Mrs. Ian Spear** and **Mrs. Ron Tanner** produced a welcome brew of tea. There was a momentary crisis when we discovered a map was missing but, luckily, team mate **Staff Sergeant Herb Atherly** offered us a spare one which he just happened to have available. After another three sections we climbed the Koteberg, a cold, bleak hill, where there was a compulsory night stop. **Corporal George Bardsley** looked after us all very ably, the meal being most welcomed.

After four hours stop we set off on a rhyming clues section, followed by one involving solutions to simple cyphers, which brought us back to the Koteberg. Then **Corporal Harry Bishop** drove on the courtesy section, after which **Sergeant Ken King** drove for the driving tests section, the last section which took place on the square back in barracks.

The next evening was spent speculating on who would win the various prizes, and also hearing tales from other competitors. Apparently one team had waved at the check point controller until they realised that certain formalities were necessary! Another team spent 36 hours in a pub waiting for the recovery team.

After a welcome night's sleep, we reported to the gym to hear the results. We were greeted with: "Well, I see you have done it again," and we had — in vehicle No. 13! Second was **Lieutenant Galloway's** team from 1 Squadron in vehicle No. 33, and third **Lieutenant White, Corporal Forster** and **Lance-Corporal Perkins** in vehicle No. 4 from 4 Squadron. 4 Squadron also won the team cup, the third squadron Rover, No. 22, being crewed by **Staff Sergeant Atherly, Corporal Turner** and **Corporal Gray.**

I am sure everyone would like to thank **Major Spear,** his assistants and marshals for all their hard work for the benefit of the teams in a most enjoyable competition.

Rugby

The frost has come early, and the grounds are no more suitable for playing rugby than South Camp Square. This has caused the postponement of the B.A.O.R. Rugby Final until 25th February and has been received with rather mixed feelings, for the team were raring to do battle with The Royal Regiment of Wales — an amalgamation of The South Wales Borderers (last year's Army Cup winners) and the Welch Regiment. On the other hand, the eight weeks breathing space will give a few of the lame and hitherto lazy, a chance to impress the selectors. **Sergeant Alex Kubu** should by then, have recovered from the surgeon's knife, **Sergeant Sam Degai** will have recovered from Yabaki Vou, and it is even rumoured that **Captain Roger Thompson** has been secretly shedding tonnage behind the gymnasium.

The team won their way through to the B.A.O.R. final early in December by beating 34 Light Air Defence Regiment R.A. on their home ground in Dortmund. This was a typical cup game, with crisp tackling by the back row of **Dunbar, Taylor**

TIGHT SCRUM

F. of S. George Hall of 7th Regiment gets the ball to his scrum half Lance-Corporal Sam Mosedale. 7th Regiment have their eyes fixed on winning the Army Rugby Cup this year

and **Wilson** while plenty of steam was generated up front in the engine room. **Corporal Bert Taylor** had the sort of game you read about in the *Wizard and Hotspur*, having a hand in all the tries and scoring one himself. A memorable part of the game was **Corporal Derek Biggs'** 50 yard drop goal which must have been demoralising for '34' who were still tackling well, yet conceding points. The game was won by 17 points to 6, further tries being scored by skipper, **Lieutenant Chris Melhuish,** and **Sergeant Taffy Dunbar.** This was the last game that '34' were to play, for they have disbanded under the latest defence cuts. Those who have been members of the club for the last five years will know that except for the 'Dukes,' '34' were our keenest rivals in B.A.O.R. We will miss this rousing fixture next season.

In place of the postponed final the club had a small get together with films and a beer or six. One of the films shown was of last year's team winning the B.A.O.R. seven-a-side competition. Since seeing the film, **Corporal Dave Higgins** hasn't stopped combing his hair and even **Pat Lee** has started to look something like a well known film star — **Margaret Rutherford!** At the end of the session **Corporal Bert Taylor** was presented with a small wedding present by the Club. We wish him, and **Monica,** a very happy life together.

A very pleasant evening was spent with **Lieutenant Clint Weaver,** R.A.D.C., who is secretary of the 4th Division Rugby Referees Society. In a forty-minute talk he explained the enemies point of view, and after this one must sympathise with the average unpaid chap who gives up his afternoons, gets freezing cold, and little thanks, whilst his very parentage and pulheems are called into question, by both teams. Anyway it's very difficult to detect the chap who manages to get a mouthful of ear, at the same time old fairy feet in the centre is deliberately inching over the ten yard line. Munch, munch!

The first months of the season also saw the addition of three new junior members to the Club. We would like to congratulate **Glen Biggs, Yvonne Dunbar** and **Erika Kubu** on their new babies. **Derek Biggs** reckons his new baby has all the makings of a good prop — lucky Sharon.

Major John McKellar

Many readers of these notes will be sorry to hear that after 30 years in the Royal Signals, **Major John McKellar** has decided to hang up his gaiters. Whether one knew **John McKellar** as a colleague, friend or golf partner, one always had the benefit of his wide experience, kindly advice and sense of humour. After two years studying in Salisbury, **John** is going to join the church—a brave venture at a time when he could justifiably be looking forward to a quiet retirement in his native Scotland.

On behalf of the whole Corps we would like to say thank you to **John** and his wife **Betty** for their sincere efforts on behalf of the Royal Signals over the past thirty years. In their new life we wish to say "Lang mea your lum reek."

At the end of the decade the Regiment can look back to the many successes in the sporting, social and communicating fields. Bruin has come, and is now a way of life. The vast 14 pair cable parks have been replaced by vehicle hardstandings, whilst the fairies now outnumber the hairies. Drab olive has, at last, replaced bronze green. The Regiment has won the Army Cup at Hockey, the B.A.O.R. Rugby Cup, and the 4th Division Rugby Cup no fewer than five times. We can now look forward to 1970 and the fiftieth year of the Corps, determined to improve on the high standards set by our predecessors, in every walk of service life — starting with the Army Rugby Cup!

Footnote

If any reader has obtained the impression that the only sports team in 7th Signal Regiment is the Rugby XV they are wrong. It must be pointed out, that we also run a 2nd XV.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

THE Commanding Officer of the King's Division Depot (Yorkshire), **Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Cubiss, M.C.,** was the Inspecting Officer at the pass-off parade of Nos. 1 and 4 Troops on 28th November. The best recruits were **Signalman Clancy** (1 Troop) now training as a radio operator at 24th Signal Regiment, and **Signalman Barraclough** (4 Troop) awaiting training as a Signals Technician.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor R. Eaton,** took the salute at the pass-off parade held on 12th December, of Nos. 5 and 6 Troops. The best recruits were **Signalman Thompson** (5 Troop), awaiting training as a Signals Technician, and **Signalman Walker** (6 Troop) now training at 224 Squadron as a Special Operator.

The Inspecting Officer at the last pass-off parade of 1969 was the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood.** The Troops on parade were Nos. 2 and 3, with best recruit **Signalman Halstead** (2 Troop) and **Signalman Newton** (3 Troop) both waiting to train as Signals Technicians.

Rugby

The month of December has been extremely successful for the Regimental XV, with a fine win against 2nd Field Regiment in the first round of the Northern Command Cup, by 8 points to 5. The team produced some of the best rugby and team work of the season to achieve this win, and it was only fitting that our leading scorer and captain (**Captain P. Brooks,** R.A.E.C.) should score the winning points. Success was also our against Gosforth 3rd XV (3—0), D.E.R.R. (11—3), and a well-earned draw against 9th/12th Royal Lancers (6—6). Unfortunately we have lost a number of regulars, some posted to other units and others to civilian life. In the latter category the team will be the poorer without **Lance-Corporal Roy Brodie,** whose push and fire will be sadly missed in the pack; we wish him well in his new career.

Congratulations must be extended to **Captain R. P. Gravestock** on his selection for the command team against the Army (Scotland).

Squash

The game has flourished in the last few months to the extent that the Regiment can now field two teams of a reasonable standard. With the running of a handicap competition, interest has been keen, and although the seeding committee were proved right, the seeds did not get everything their own way. The semi-finals and final were played on 17th December, and the prizes presented by **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood.** The winner was **Sergeant K. Stewart,** with **Sergeant Leggott** as runner-up, proving a very tough opponent indeed. **Lieutenant Q. Vigurs** and **Captain J. Radford** were the losing semi-finalists.

Late result: 11th Signal Regiment 5; 1 Royal Irish Rangers 2.

Soccer news

After an unenterprising start to the season, the unit team, under the captaincy of **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) 'Nobby' Styles,** are now able to match the pace and power of most teams in their league. Consistent good play by **Staff Sergeant Derek Probert** and **Signalman Derek Taylor** have put us amongst the league leaders. Results to date: Played 6, won 4, drawn 1, lost 1, goals for 36, against 9.

In a keenly played game, we were knocked out of the Command Knockout Competition by 5 goals to 4 by A.A.C., Harrogate.

Better luck, though, in the Command Challenge Cup, match-winning play by **Lance-Corporal Frank Mudie** and **Signalman Graham Hedges** ensuring a convincing win in the semi-final over 5 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., by 3—0, to put us in the first cup final this season. We hope for more good results in the future.

'Helles Tours,' 1970

Many members of the Corps will recall their days in Continuation Troop Training. Those who passed through in 1968/69 will recall the weekend camps and tours in the Swaledale, Ribbledale and at Scarborough.

Well, they are at it again! Under the command of **Captain Roy Simmons,** 85 members of CT Troop, with permanent staff, set off for Scarborough on 29th December. Some said on a package holiday; others shook their heads and spoke of the moors and winter.

The Troop's visit to Scarborough (still there at the time of writing) is a combination of both field and adventure training.

The Troop saw the New year in with a party in the 'Jimmy' Club, by courtesy of **Major Beven,** Commandant of the Scarborough Training Centre. They are now looking forward to the holiday season and even more tours.

'Helles Tours,' as we have become known, offer a two-day all-in tour of the Troutdale, Cleveland Hills; the four-day 'package deal' includes Pickering and the 'Lyke Wake Walk,' a route of 43 miles in rarified air, from sea level to 1,500 feet. These tours include food, accommodation and a guide; transport is by foot! That is on the lighter side. Field Training is carried out under realistic conditions in the Broxia Forest and involves map-reading, weapon-training and field-cooking.

Christmas festivities

The festivities began on Saturday, 13th, when a party was held in the JRC for the young children.

All hands were kept busy organising games and competitions for the children (in order to prevent a free-for-all) and a hectic time was had during the tea and 'bun-fight' which followed. A brief respite for the organisers came during the film show, then it was time for the children to air their lungs in some rousing carol singing.

The arrival of Father Christmas, complete with presents, brought the party to a close, leaving the children happy and contented (in most cases), and the parents thankful that it was over.

Saturday, 20th, saw an entertaining evening in both the Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes, when the Christmas draws were held; several people returned home heavily-laden with prizes, the rest convinced, as usual, that the whole thing was fixed.

A carol service was held on Monday, 22nd, for both 8th and 11th Signal Regiments, St. Martin's Church being full to overflowing, much to the delight of the Padre. Close on the heels of this followed the soldiers' pre-Christmas dinner, at which all officers of the Regiment were called upon to display their talents as waiters—the wealth of talent being somewhat dubious—however, a very good dinner was enjoyed by the troops, and the 'waiters' had no cause for complaint, being kept well supplied with plenty of Christmas 'spirit.'

Tuesday, 23rd, brought in true tradition, a very 'liquid' evening in the Sergeants' Mess. Despite the good resolve to have an early evening, all resolutions went by the board when it appeared that there was an unlimited supply of Glenfiddich behind the bar. The R.S.M. was congratulated on his excellent bar stock. A hundred and four tots of Glenfiddich later, proceedings came to a somewhat reluctant close, when the five remaining felt they should present themselves at home for breakfast.

Festivities came to a final close on 5th January, when **Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson,** together with volunteers from wives of the Regiment, took a party of children to Bradford to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington.' No lack of enthusiasm in audience participation on the part of the children, but their exuberance was not allowed to get too much out of hand, due to the very capable control exercised by the ladies present. The children returned very tired, but very happy.

Royal Signals Staff Band Concert

On 16th December, the Royal Signals Staff Band, under their Director, **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** entertained members of the Regiment, their wives and families to a particularly lively concert in the J.R.C. in Helles Barracks.

The concert was a great success, and many in the audience expressed the wish that concerts should become a regular part of the Regimental calendar.

The programme of music was varied and interesting; it contained items that were modern and which would have found favour in the 'Top Twenty.' It must be said that many of the audience went along to the concert without much enthusiasm, expecting traditional military band music. Everyone in the audience, from the greenest recruit to the oldest and boldest soldier was treated to a big surprise by the band.

'Hoot N'anny,' a sort of 'gaelic rave-up,' received the biggest ovation of the evening; the walls of the J.R.C. rocked with the applause, which only ceased when the band gave an encore.

The concert not only gave a great deal of pleasure to the large audience, but also showed what a versatile and accomplished band we have.

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

NOW it is all over, we can truly appreciate that the hard work, put in by so many willing hands, was worthwhile. A large number of Christmas parties, Christmas dinners, drink parties, and far too much food, has had the desired effect—exhaustion! Of all our functions, only a few can be mentioned.

Headquarter Squadron

They were the first to have their party. Never before in the history of the Corps, have accommodation stores been checked so fast, moved so swiftly, changed so frequently, with so few men, as did Headquarter Squadron when preparing the gymnasium for their own and subsequent parties.

They held their party on 12th December; a band from across the border 'Dutch Louie,' provided the music, and we were all willingly coerced into the many extraordinary twists and shakes by our very able master of ceremonies, **Staff Sergeant Jim Goodridge.**

2 Squadron

The peace of Saturday, 13th December, was totally shattered by **Corporal Curly Jones** and his 'Buskers,' who played for

(Continued on page 65)

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

The B.20 is a very versatile all solid-state equipment. It can be used as a manpack or installed in vehicles and light aircraft.

The B.20 HF SSB Station Radio, which has an RF output of 30W p.e.p., represents an entirely new design concept. The transmitter-receiver weighs only 10 lb (4.5 kg), and a lightweight station including a 24W/h battery weighs only 15 lb (6.8 kg). The B.20 uses a fully synthesized frequency control system developed by Plessey specially for this equipment, and which provides 280,000 channels on the frequency range 2–29.99 MHz. SSB is the main mode of communication, but a.m. and c.w. facilities are also provided.

The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

The Plessey Company won the Queen's Award to Industry 1969 for the export achievements of its Electronics Group.

For further information and illustrated literature, please contact The Sales Manager, Defence Unit.

PLESSEY Electronics

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(Continued from page 63)

the 2 Squadron party. The theme on this occasion was the '1920's—a Flapper Party.' **Sergeant Vernon Merrick,** Intelligence Corps, did the vocals with 'help' from various sections of a very appreciative audience.

1 Squadron

Because of shift work they decided to organise Troop parties. Troops formed their own committees, and quite independently booked suitable places, decided on the dinner menu, and organised dancing. Everyone worked extremely hard and, according to all reports, enjoyed themselves immensely.

Sergeants' Mess Draw

W.O.I (R.S.M.) and **Mrs. Filder,** and the members of the Sergeants' Mess organised an extremely good draw and dance. 'Dutch Louie' was in evidence again; the music was 'smooth' with a very fair smattering of those 'slipped disc' twists and shakes. As always, the prizes were excellent. Our T.O.T., **Major Don Chetwynd,** is delighted with his 'Match Box' game.

All Ranks' Dance

On 19th December, the Regiment, with many friends, and Mums and Dads from the U.K., 'took off' with the Dance Band section of the R.A.F. (Germany) Band. Another superb evening, it was a pleasure to see everybody enjoying themselves once more in our gymnasium, which was magnificently decorated. "It would cost you five guineas just to put your foot in a place like it at home," said one of our impressed visitors.

The Wives' Club Dance

This report would be quite incomplete without mention of our delightful, hardworking wives, and another excellent evening. **Corporal 'Curly' Jones** and his 'Buskers" were a treat. Music and songs by **'Curly' Jones** and **Sergeant Vernon Merrick,** ranged from westerns, oldies, twists, shakes and an 'Eightsome Reel.' **Sergeant John Wallace,** of TM Troop, one of the 'Buskers,' was quite carried away with the reel.

What a pity **Corporal Jones** has had to leave us for a Class I Upgrading Course; our priorities must be wrong! The 'Buskers' now need a leader, who is it going to be?

SPORTS BULLETIN

Basketball.—We now lead in the Rhine Area Major Units League. The leaders are: 13th Signal Regiment, played 5, won 5, lost 0, points 10; 514 U.S.A. Artillery Group, played 4, won 4, lost 0, points 8.

Cross-country.—The team has not been at full strength recently, but has fulfilled its fixtures in the R.A.F/Rhine Area League. On 14th January we are the sponsor unit for the Rhine Area Championships, and will be competing.

Rugby.—Unfortunately there have been unavoidable cancellations in the last few weeks. We had one good win at 28th Signal Regiment, 11—0. So far this season we have played 8, won 3, drawn 1, lost 4, point for 93, against 82.

Soccer.—The team has not really settled down yet. As with many units' teams, courses and leave makes it impossible to play the same men all the time. 28th Signal Regiment knocked us out of the Army Cup, after a very hard-fought and exciting game. To date, we are fourth in the Rhine Area Major Units League.

Orienteering.—Teams from each Squadron and both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes got away to a good start on 19th December. The course took in six miles of muddy countryside. **Corporal Mich Skinner** and **Bill Bailey** secured the trophy for 2 Squadron. (One competitor thought he had volunteered for an overseas posting).

Regimental Stamp Club

The Regiment's Stamp Club has been attracting a few more members, and on 6th December held an exhibition at Birgelen in the B.F.E.S. school library.

The displays were arranged so as to show the history and development of postage stamps, and ranged from a pre-stamp cover, the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, through to the newly-released British Christmas issue. Several country, thermatic and cover collections aptly demonstrated the changes in design, printing standards and issuing policies which have taken place, especially in the post-war years.

Two novel items were a display of "13th Signal Regiment commemoratives," unlikely to be listed by Gibbons, but good enough to deceive any but the most discerning non-collector. These had been presented to the C.O. by their designer/printer and were kindly loaned for the exhibition, and a 'Portrait' of H.M. The Queen, produced by **Lance-Corporal Brian Smith,** entirely from recent GB stamps.

Having flexed its muscles a little, the club is now looking for fresh fields to enter, if not to conquer, and the Secretary, **Sergeant John Lawless,** would be glad to hear from any other unit stamp clubs.

Investiture

An investiture was held at the residence of the British Ambassador to the Federal German Republic on 9th October. **W.O.II (Q.M.S.) Laurie Storey** received from the Ambassador, **Sir Roger Jackling, K.C.M.G.,** the British Empire Medal. **W.O.II Storey** was accompanied by his wife, Olive.

Exercise 'Rumbrennerei'

This exercise was planned by **Staff Sergeant Robert Cockburn** and executed by himself, **Lance-Corporal Derek Awburn** and **Signalman John Pryor. Staff Sergeant Cockburn's** aim was to visit a rum distillery—and so the name, which means rum-burning—and to learn something of the German Navy during the closing stages of the last war. The latter included a tour of the German Naval College in Flensberg. "We were looked after extremely well," said the Staff Sergeant. "Our guide, a German Lieutenant who spoke perfect English, outlined the purpose of the College and explained that in 1945 it was the scene of Admiral Doenitz's self-styled provisional government's confrontation with the British."

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14th Signal Regiment, Worcester

Christmas at Worcester

THIS was the first Christmas that the Regiment has spent as a unit concentrated in one place, and we were very lucky. We even had the detachments back from Anguilla and Northern Ireland, just in time to join in the festive fun, and it was very nice to see the enthusiastic support given to the events of the season.

The officers led off with a most successful ladies' night and, apart from an excellent dinner, there was a good combo group and some wild gambling in the background.

The all ranks' dance was held on 18th December and, despite the influenza, it was well supported and, indeed, a most successful occasion. Possibly the highlight of the evening was the beauty competition in aid of SSAFA, in which the R.S.M. and S.S.M.s received a novel form of face-pack. **R.S.M. Douglas Rumsey** even got his picture in the *Evening News*.

ONLY A WIFE DARE . . .!

. . . slap a custard pie into the face of the R.S.M.—but it was all part of the Christmas festivities at 14th Signal Regiment. On the receiving end R.S.M. Douglas Rumsey and the pie slapper Mrs. Pamela Rumsey

The soldiers' Christmas dinner was a noisy, happy occasion, in which our new Messing Officer, **Captain Drummond Steel,** ably supported by **Staff Sergeant Owen Finnan** and his staff, filled the vacuums very tastefully.

The two children's parties, held on the 17th and 30th December, were a great success, due to **Major Joan Parker,** W.R.A.C., and her very able team. It was nice to include the local Dr. Barnardo's children, who appeared to enjoy the events just as much as ours.

The Sergeants' Mess ball, held on Saturday, 20th December, went with a real swing, right from the start, due to the organisation and planning by **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Bob Peake** and his minions. Unfortunately, the bug (influenza) reared its ugly head and some familiar faces were unseen! Otherwise a very good time was had by all.

There were various other minor distractions during the period. The party for our civilian employees was notable, as indeed the reciprocal hospitality between Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. The Boxing Day meet of the Worcestershire Hunt, in our barracks, frankly took us by surprise, so we can claim no credit for that occasion.

CLOTHING is still URGENTLY required by the WELFARE SECTION

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

When the rain came . . .

THE only festival we shall mention is Hari Raya Puasa, notable now for the biggest flood in the recorded history of Singapore—14.9 inches between 11 p.m. and 10.30 a.m., which was also the time of one of the highest tides for six months. As the tides offset the drainage of the lower levels of Singapore, the ensuing dramas will be familiar to all those who beaver away at underground cables. For those who know the geography, I met a man who left the Tanglin Club and went to the racecourse by outboard motor. The levels went down quickly enough, but the cleaning-up and repairs will not be finished for some time.

Highly commendable driving

We record with pleasure a small, but significant, success in a professional capacity.

On Sunday, 30th November, the Singapore Government, as part of their 150th anniversary celebration of Modern Singapore, held a National Road Courtesy and Safe Driving Competition. There were approximately 150 competitors for the motor vehicle section, of which 12 were military personnel from various units on the island. One of the competitors was **Signalman Wan Saupik,** a BII lineman serving with 2 Squadron, who drove a Land Rover. He was required to drive his vehicle over a 25-mile circuit around the island, starting and finishing in the centre of the city. **Wan Saupik,** who has been driving for 12 years, drove around the circuit without the aid of a navigator and without incurring any penalty points, thereby winning the competition. Anybody who has served in the Far East will realise that it is quite a feat to drive 25 miles, being cautious and without infringing the law to some minor extent, but to do it, unlike the majority, without the aid of a navigator, is highly commendable. **Wan Saupik** accepted his victory quietly and with great modesty. The photos show him receiving his prizes—a large cup and a gold coin worth $150.

249 Squadron—Exercise 'Square Hole'

The 1969 'silly season' ended with a one-star Joint Force Headquarters exercise in Central Malaya.

H.Q., 3 Commando Brigade, 40 Commando and 42 Commando, supported by the Joint Warfare Branch (R.A.F.) and elements of the Far East Fleet were our 'friendly forces' and the 10th Gurkha the 'enemy.'

The game began with the Squadron deploying on 24th November, after a frantic and hectic week of preparations (O.C. 'Oscar' only met the second half of his Troop—ex-Tanglin comcen—six days before deployment). We headed north into the known monsoon season with fingers crossed for good weather. The first 24 hours was warm and sunny and enabled us to erect most of our tentage, but then it happened—the skies opened and the monsoon began with a two-day 'command performance.' Drainage trenches were to no avail and soon most 'properties' had their own built-in fishing rights. (Dear Mr. Siemen, your T100s do not work well under 18 inches of water).

The weather cleared and we were joined by the JFHQ and the Airhead and BMA units, who scoffed at our tales of chaos and water. We grinned stupidly and waited.

The Squadron was responsible for the provision of forward rear Common User DCN/logistic circuits, exclusive R.A.F. offensive support and tactical support communications, the airhead comcen with SDO facilities, all the line and exchanges in the Airhead/BMA and the complex local communications required at an airhead airfield. These communications were available in good time and we used our 'spare' time improving an irrigation system, much to the amusement of our fellow exercisers.

A fine 36-hour period began the exercise and the enemy soon took a firm hammering. JFHQ moved forward to its Vietnam-type bunker in the jungle clearing, known as LS124 taking with it the Squadron support party.

Then on 8th December the Senior R.A.F. Met Officer announced at the evening conference that the weather was going to break for the worse, and that within the next 24 hours we could expect the beginning of 18 hours of monsoon rain. It began six hours early, the next afternoon. THREE days later it decided to stop. By 11th December we were cut off from the rest of the world by five feet of flood water, stretching back 150 miles back to Singapore. Our drainage scheme coped very nicely, thank you, but oh, what about our scoffing friends. Happy 249ers were not amused, however, by comments of Christmas in the field. However, all good things come to an end, and early on 14th December, the exercise closed and we began to extricate ourselves. One hundred and twenty men and nearly ninety vehicles waded out of the exercise area and down the road to home. Alas, let us not forget the gallant crew of R4 (our southern radio relay relay). They found themselves cut off at the top of a well-known mountain in Pulau, South Johore, by one and a half miles of road subsidence and landslides. Immediate air resupply had saved them once during the exercise, but now what? Our friendly Wessex Squadron (847NAS) had no chopper serviceable enough for the big lift out and the R.A.F. Whirlwind Squadrons could only carry a maximum of 800lb. at one go. Nevertheless, 103 Squadron, after much pre-planning and pre-positioning attempted a lift-out and recovery on 18th December. No luck, the cloud base was lower than the aerial masts and the LZ unsuitable. Throwing all caution to the wind, our Operations Adjutant despatched **Staff Sergeant Scrutton** and a party of volunteers (detailed by our Operations Adjutant!) with a road convoy with orders "not to return until said relay had been CARRIED off the mountain."

Being naturally shy and loathing heroic publicity, no account of this gallant effort will ever be forthcoming, sufficient to say the task was completed by late afternoon on 19th December.

What else can we say. A good constructive exercise, with many lessons after so long a period without an exercise of this type and many tales of 'war' and humour.

The Squadron looks forward (?) to five days of hectic clean-up, return to stores, repair of equipment, before two weeks' block leave (unheard of in the annals of Squadron history) before returning to the UEI vehicles and equipment, Admin, a third successive Squadron reorganisation and continuous exercises between February and July.

Past members of the Squadron still residing in H.M. Establishment in Netley will see very little has changed!

Mecca pilgrimage

Another muslim, **Sergeant Murad bin Abdul Hamid** has left on the pilgrimage to Mecca. He is the third to go and will return to us as **Sergeant Haji Murad** in March. This ambition of all good muslims is made possible with help from the Regiment.

OFF TO MECCA

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild bids farewell to Sergeant Murad about to embark on the Kuala Lumpur for Mecca. He is the third man to go on this annual pilgrimage, a journey made possible by help from the Regiment

Regimental Cross-Country

Cross-country in the Far East is not the most popular of sports. However, at the start of the season the Inter-Squadron Competition was keenly supported, resulting in a close victory for 2 Squadron over 249 Signal Squadron. The course was over 3½ miles of rough country and the race was won by **Lieutenant D. Gardiner,** of 2 Squadron, followed by **Signalman Stanley** and **Signalman Smith** of 249 Squadron.

From the results of this competition the Regimental team was selected. The team has now competed three times in the Singapore District Cross-Country League, over courses varying from five to six miles. **Signalman Palany** and **Lieutenant Cardiner** have regularly finished in the top five, providing a firm base on which to anchor the team, and the Regiment has been the first Army unit team home in each race.

Next month the Regiment will be sponsoring the District Cross-Country Championships, and in the light of our recent successes, our hopes of doing well are high.

For the coming season, the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Hild,** has been appointed Chairman of the Army Far East Cross-Country Committee and **Lieutenant Gardiner** has been appointed Secretary.

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 43

BY mid-month, we had both our drivers' and linemen's upgrading courses completed, various visits behind us and, with the snow very much in evidence, were ready to celebrate the traditional white Christmas.

Children's party

W.O.II Hills organised the Regimental children's party at Laarbruch, with an excellent film show, tea, and, of course, Father Christmas himself. Forty-eight of our children attended and spent a very happy couple of hours between school and bed!

Entertainment

The Laarbruch Singers gave us 'The Year in Song' and acted as hosts to the Venray Male Voice Choir, whose singing was a delight to listen to. The Brownies followed this with a Christmas Nativity Play, playing to a packed house of proud Mums and Dads, and the B.F.E.S. School gave one of the best Festivals of Carols for years.

Altogether an excellent lead-in to Christmas itself, when we all gathered our families around us and celebrated in our own ways.

SAILING

Lance-Corporal J. P. P. Flynn looks back on the most memorable voyage of the season.

The end of the sailing season left us with few trophies, but with an abundance of memories, heart-rending tales and enough laughs to see us through till next summer. With this kind of bounty, who needs trophies.

Perhaps our most memorable voyage was the 'Seven days' Scandinavian Cruise'—destination, Copenhagen, with its wine, women and song.

For the first two days of the cruise the weather was glorious and the winds most favourable. Unfortunately, we did not leave Kiel, because the engine drove only in reverse and the battery was 'flat' (whether or not the two faults were connected is beyond my comprehension). However, we were left with plenty of time to explore *Petasus* and expose many of her secrets, such as leaks, a ballast of 'meat and veg' and 'treacle pud' and enough 'compo' beans to blow us twice round the Baltic and back to Kiel.

On the third day all was in order and we set sail for Copenhagen. Needless to say, by now the weather was gruesome, and the winds were against us, but our spirits were high and **Sergeant ('Jock') Smart** even managed, during a force 8 gale, to give a 'Hornpipe' and a few 'maritime chants,' which he dedicated to **Lance-Corporal 'Spider' Webb,** who was at the helm when we did a 'Chinese jib,' which sent the pan of boiling water off the stove and down the back of **Sergeant Smart's** trousers.

After many hours of battering by the sea, and being blown

in any but the required direction, we decided to give Copenhagen a miss and visit another harbour, equally as solid and terrestrial, although perhaps not quite so well renowned—Skobaköbing. (The guide book informed us: "a haven for male tourists, where women outnumber men by two to one.") They should have added "except on weekends," because all the women catch the bus to Copenhagen; needless to say, we arrived on Saturday. Anyway, after a pleasant evening 'down town' and a good night's sleep, we set sail and were homeward bound for Kiel. The winds were reasonable and the weather was almost bearable (which was more than could be said for the food). After a day's sailing, and a further two hours of insiduously steering clear of a red light, which the Skipper (**Lieutenant Gordon Davies**) recognised as a shallow ground marker, we somehow discovered that it was the Kiel light and headed towards it.

We eventually limped back into Kiel, dishevelled and exhausted, and somehow reminiscent of *The Victory* returning from the Battle of Trafalgar.

Proverbially, a good time was had by all, and what is more, I can't wait to set sail next season.

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

WIRE-note writing presents its usual problem, not so much what to put in, but what to leave out. So, with the certain knowledge of criticism from some quarters, let's take the plunge.

Fine effort for the blind

On Monday, 15th December, the Wives' Club met in the Corporals' Mess ante room for the presentation of a cheque for £300 to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Much to the surprise of all those attending, the club was presented, in return, with a replica of a guide dog as a memento of the year's hard work.

THE WIVES MAKE FINE EFFORT FOR THE BLIND

Mrs. Hellier, wife of the C.O. receives a replica of a guide dog for the blind. The presentation was a slight token of the outstanding work put in by the Wives' Club in raising £300 to provide guide dogs for the blind. A typical guide dog is shown in the photograph

Entertaining one hundred senior citizens

Later in the week, on Thursday, 18th December, the Regiment entertained a hundred senior citizens to a slap-up Christmas dinner, the soldiers having elected to give up their own in order that this might be done. The seniors, drawn from Catterick and all its environs—Tunstall, Hipswell and Colburn—arrived for pre-lunch drinks soon after mid-day and sat down to dinner at 12.30 p.m. During lunch, waiter service was provided by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.,** the Padre, **Rev. Friend,** the Adjutant, soldiers

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

One hundred Senior Citizens from Catterick and its environs have a right royal time as guests of 24th Signal Regiment during Christmas

and W.R.A.C. of the Regiment. In addition, **Mr. Pullen,** the Chairman of the Rural District Council, was a very welcome 'guest' waiter.

Immediately after lunch, a fleet of buses transported the guests to the Carey Theatre, where a Christmas show was staged by talent from within the Regiment, ably marshalled by **Sergeant Grey.** Community singing and carols followed, and our guests left, having enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

White Water Race

Sport has been hit hard this month, both by the weather and the influenza outbreak. However, the Swale White Water Race went ahead as planned on Sunday, 7th December. The race, organised by the Telemark Club of 24th Signal Regiment, attracted entries from clubs as far apart as Soar Valley, in Derby, and Gateshead in the North-East. Unfortunately, the Swale was in a rather placid mood; there was less white and less water than anticipated—nevertheless, casualties did occur, mostly from canoes grounding in shallows.

Without doubt, the event proved highly successful, and the Swale White Water Race will become an 'annual' in the canoe calendar.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

MY Christmas box from the Adjutant, **Captain Pat Dickinson:** "Write THE WIRE notes," he says. "But I am going," I says. "All the more reason for you to write them then," he says. He gets his pound of flesh this Adj., so with joyful accord here I go.

Visitors

During the last few months we have had two visitors—the S.O.-in-C. and his wife and **Colonel P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** AAG AGII.

On 5th November, we were pleased to welcome to Francisca Barracks, the S.O.-in-C., **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and his wife. On arrival at the main gate he met the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald,** the R.S.M., **W.O.I Brian Turner,** and inspected the quarter guard. After an initial brief by the C.O., the S.O.-in-C. took the salute for the MPC III-II pass-off parade. He presented the prize to the best student, **Corporal Dave Brown.** Following this he toured the Regiment, visiting the Training Wing, where he met **Captain Jim Chater** and his staff and saw a Comcen BII course at work. From there the S.O.-in-C. proceeded to 1 and 2 Squadrons, where he looked at static displays showing the roles of the two Squadrons.

He stopped off in the Sergeants' Mess and met the Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment and finished his visit with afternoon tea in the Officers' Mess, where he met the officers and their wives.

WHAT WERE THEY LAUGHING AT?

The S.O.-in-C. and Captain Tony Tregoning share a joke while studying static displays showing the role of 1 and 2 Squadrons

Mrs. Pentreath visited quarters with **Mrs. Macdonald** and **Mrs. Turner.** She then paid a short visit to the Wives' Club and met several wives before joining her husband in the Officers' Mess.

We hope they enjoyed their visit to '28' and look forward to welcoming them again.

Colonel Tighe visited us briefly on 2nd December to discuss career planning with the officers of the Regiment and would appear to have set at ease most of the officers he saw, if faces are anything to go by.

Anglo-German relations

The culmination of our Anglo-German day with the town of St. Tonis (as reported in December's WIRE) came when our C.O. handed over a cheque for approximately £400 to **Bürgermeister Langels** for the Red Cross of St. Tonis.

This money goes to refurbish and redecorate their new premises. Their Treasurer gave a sigh of relief when the cheque had changed hands, as most of the work had already been carried out on credit in anticipation! We are now eagerly awaiting an inviation to the opening, sometime in January.

A NOTABLE PRESENTATION

The photograph shows Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Macdonald handing over a cheque (approx. £400) to Bürgermeister Langels for the local Red Cross

Others from left to right:—Major Vic Beckhurst, M.C., unit paymaster, Gemeindedinektor Reurer, Major Eric Carrel, W.O.I (F. of S.) Mike Butler, Captain (T.O.T.) Ken West, and three members of the local Red Cross. (Far right with the big smile is their treasurer!)

ON A COURSE WITH MARCONI'S

Rear—Left to Right:—Lance-Corporal A. Llewellyn, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) G. H. Nickson, Lance-Corporal R. Hudson, Corporal J. Jackson

Front—Left to Right:—Corporal M. R. Everett, Corporal C. Bowler, Corporal M. A. McMahon, Lance-Corporal P. Shepherd

Tropo course

In November and December, seven technicians and a Foreman of Signals, future members of our Tropo Troop, attended a five-week course on Broadband Tropospheric Scatter theory and equipment. The course was held at the Marconi College in Chelmsford. The photograph (by kind permission of the Marconi Company Ltd.), shows the members of the course who were being taught how to handle the equipment which we are to receive in the future.

Sport — Soccer

Soccer

The Regimental soccer team are having their best season for some time. They are placed midway in the Rhine Area Soccer League and, with half of the season still to play, could well finish in the first three. In the Army Cup they have disposed of three good teams so far—23rd Regiment R.C.T. (B.A.O.R. finalists last season), 13th Signal Regiment and 45th Medium Regiment, R.A. The next round is against 16th Signal Regiment (our local rivals) in the Rhine Area final—the winners of this match will go forward to the B.A.O.R. semi-finals. A great deal of their success is due to the training and coaching given them by **C.S.M.I Jim Combe,** A.P.T.C. Good luck in the Rhine Area final.

Sergeants' Mess

The cold Yuletide facts. On 17th December, everyone singing and decorating the Mess. Next evening over a hundred of us (wives included), squeezed into the Officers' Mess for cocktails . . . very nice too. Limbering up now. Next day, at noon, traditional drinks, then marched over by **Sergeant 'Ch'ppy' Wood,** R.A.P.C. to serve lunch to our soldiers, accompanied by the Mess Choir, with hymns, carols and 'blue' songs! The following evening, the great draw—33,410 tickets sold (only to the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes) at 50 pfennigs each—135 wonderful prizes, plus 24 magnum bottles of champagne/brandy as consolation gifts. This was one of the biggest and best draws yet, and resulted, amongst other funnies, in one of our living-in single members, **Sergeant 'Dutch' Holland,** walking away with the ladies' prizes of a gift voucher for clothing and a vanity box—such is the luck of the draw.

The Mess looked like fairyland. The buffet was scrumptious (Army champions), ladies' gowns gorgeous, our uniforms splendid, wigs hair-raisingly marvellous, free drinks with service excellent, organisation superb, BUT, alas, some of us had to leave at 3 a.m. One unfortunate W.O.I won a colour television, just after a 'blighty' one—H.M. Customs will let him have it at cost!

There followed kiddies' parties, Squadron and departmental sessions. We ate, played, drank, laughed; waiting for Hogmanay in Hochbenweg, celebrations around Solbruggen and blackout at Breuningstrasse. **W.O.II (Andy) Souter's** house was heaving at 06.00 hours with the smell of bacon. All Mess members bought too much, were drunk (not you), had 'flu (and you?), smoked, danced and made resolutions. All this happened, whilst our poor, tax-free cars remained idle throughout—a sobering fact. See you at the Commerzbank!

Arrivals and departures

The Regiment at last has a Second-in-Command. We welcome to the Franciscan fold **Major Sandy Le Gassick, M.B.E.,** and his wife, **Steve**, and hope they both enjoy their stay in St. Tonis.

On a more sad note, we say goodbye to **Captain George Parfitt,** on retirement, after 26 years' service in the Army. Many will miss him, not the least being the Sergeants' Mess (he was one of their best members!) and certain junior officers who looked on George as 'Dad' in the Mess. To George, his wife and family, all our best wishes.

Our congratulations go to **W.O.II Wally Hammond** on his promotion to W.O.I. He has left us for 36th Signal Regiment (V), where he takes up his new post as M.T.O., and we wish Wally and his family all the best for the future.

We welcome to the Regiment **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Alan Webster, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John McNaughton, Sergeant Frank Gaffney** and **Sergeant Sol Pylee.** Amongst departing faces we say goodbye to **Sergeants 'Tug' Wilson, Jock Hague** (on retirement), **'Chappy' Chapman, Jock Walker** and **Sol Pylee** (is this a record for a short posting?—arrived 7th November and departed 13th December, 1969).

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For complete details call or write to:

Captain J. R. Godwin,
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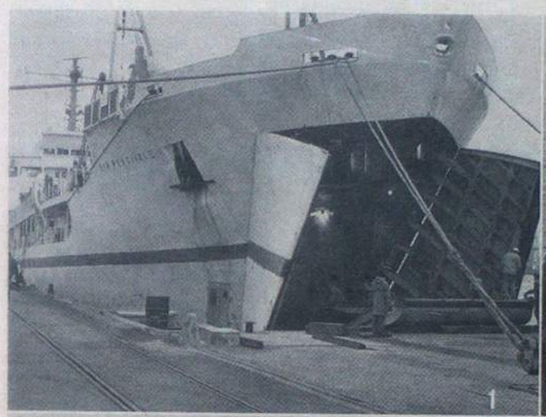
Australia House, Strand, London, WC2
01-836 2435 extension 356

After weeks of preparation, AMF(L) Force Radio Troop of 30th Signal Regiment embark for Norway



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1. **I.S.L. Sir Percival prepares for embarkation of A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop at Marchwood**
2. **Sergeant Tuite, Troop M.T. sergeant glad to go aboard**
3. **A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop prepare for Norwegian snow conditions before embarking at Marchwood**
4. **Corporal Kay and Signalman Wise chain up one of the 190 troop tyres before A.M.F.(L) Force Radio Troop embark**

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

A vigorous start to the Seventies

THE turn of the year has been a particularly busy time for the Regiment. Many weeks of preparation for the AFM(L) Force Radio Troop reached a climax when the complete Troop drove to Marchwood and embarked on LSL *Sir Percivale* on New Year's Day. The following morning, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose,** emplaned at Brize Norton to visit the Regiment's detachments in Anguilla, and two days' later, **Lieutenant Bob Baynes** departed with the AMF(L) U.K. Battalion Signal Troop for Exercise 'Hardfall IV' in Norway. After a three-day voyage to Oslo, the AMF(L) Radio Troop are well established with the Norwegian School of Signals at Jorstamoen.

At the time of going to press, we wish good fortune to **Sergeant Phil Parish** and the members of his rear link detachment for their future tour with the Grenadier Guards.

1970 is also a very significant year for the Regiment, because we are scheduled to move from Drake Lines to buildings adjacent to the School of Signals as soon as the Blandford Phase II accommodation is completed.

The Regimental Training Centre is busily engaged with the individual training of 661 Signal Troop (Ship), which is form-

ing with the Regiment in Blandford. The Troop, under the command of **Captain Andrew Briggs** with **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Derek Allen** are to embark on H.M.S. *Intrepid* after further training with the Royal Marines at Eastney and the Royal Navy at H.M.S. *Mercury*. Included among our visitors to the Training Centre are the Regimental Signallers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, who are attending a C42/C11 course on detachment from Fort George.

A Festive finish to the Sixties

The 'Cygnet Dinner' is a ladies' dinner night, held annually in the Officers' Mess to mark the affiliation of the City of London Dyers Company. This year, the Regiment was pleased to entertain **Mr. J. N. Leuchars,** a past Renter Warden of the Company, **Colonel A. R. Marshal,** of the Company, and a former commanding officer, and **Colonel A. J. Burrows, M.B.E.,** also a former commanding officer.

Thanks to some fine organisation by **Major Henry Scott, R.S.M. Bill Burke,** and **W.O.II John Charlton,** the families have been able to enjoy a full programme of Regimental parties. The children's pantomime at Bournemouth Pavilion was an obvious success. The Swan Centre (and our eardrums) withstood the non-stop reverberations of the 'Mystic Tangent' on two evenings for the all ranks' and the Corporals' Mess dances. **W.O.II Goodair** and the cooks have excelled themselves, producing well-seasoned curries and splendid cold buffets for each occasion.

The Sergeants' Mess entertained the Regiment's wives to a games evening, which was an enormous success, and matched only for popularity by their Christmas draw, a week later.

Special mention must be made of the splendid efforts of all departments of Headquarter Squadron to equip and despatch the AMF(L) Force Radio Troop and, at the same time, to fulfil the needs of a busy social season.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

632 Signal Troop, Outer Hebrides

Life on Hirta Island — the loneliest outpost in the U.K.

As related by Corporal R. Craig of St. Kilda Detachment

THIS island has been called many names, from the original Gaelic (Norse?) name of Hirta, to the loneliest outpost of the U.K. postings. Hirta is the main island of the St. Kilda group and provides a small beach protected by the Island of Dun (pronounced 'Doon') and the slopes of Conachai. A fanciful description of the whole group of islands would be, 'a malignant cancer with out-riders.'

The Vikings were here

The island's tactical value dates back to when the Vikings used to sail into Village Bay to replenish their water supply from the cold hill streams, before setting sail for far off lands, Now it is a radar station, the furthest west of a network in the Outer Hebrides, and Royal Signals maintain a permanent detachment of at least three men to provide the communications to South Uist and locally on Hirta.

Without using the whole magazine to describe life here it is difficult to give an accurate picture. When one first sees it, from the R.C.T.V. Mull during winter, or from an L.C.T. during summer, it appears as a hostile lump of rocks fit to be inhabited by gulls and seals only, both of which are in abundance.

The old civilisation, present for many hundreds of years, eventually ceased when evacuated in the early 1930's. The Services, National Trust and Nature Conservancy took over after the war. 'Ye ancients' managed to survive on a diet of mutton, seabirds, corn and religion as boats were a rarity, and they still are during the winter months.

Nowadays . . .

Nowadays we have the A.C.C. to provide for us, the R.E.M.E. to maintain generators and plant equipment and a couple of Landrovers, for there is now a road from camp up to the top of the hills. The RE's supply us with plumbing, electrical repairs and a carpenter and the medics take it from there. In short, out of an average of 25 to 30 permanent staff there are nine corps represented.

Before going further I should point out that the island is 95 per cent hills with the only flat land being just round the beach and on the tops. Our own V.H.F. site is over 1,000 feet above sea level and in bad weather — as it is now — this means a stiff hill climb on foot. Roll on summer.

The Puff Inn Bar

Socially, life revolves around the Puff Inn Bar, which is run at present by myself and **Corporal Mick Spinks** — our third member **Lance-Corporal John Walsh,** enables us to do stock checks, etc., without too much interuption to work (i.e. he mans the exchange).

Due to civilian labourers inundating the island last spring, reputedly to build us a new camp, life has been hectic—over one hundred personnel to cater for, provide welfare phone calls for and to serve over the bar. With Christmas so near, and outdoor work being cut down, we — the army — are once again predominant and the social life is improving. Last Saturday provided the first of the Christmas festivities in the form of a ladies' night. With backing from our friends wives in Benbecula we managed to achieve some similarity to the fairer sex. Miss St. Kilda 1969 was chosen, crowned and intoxicated in that order.

On the work side the three signals men have provided an exchange op. all day and three nights of the week, a radio op. for ship to shore communications, a TV repair man (yours truly) on top of the normal work load of a signal centre and radio relay link. The normal complement of one tech. R.R., one tech. T.E. and one cypher op. has to cover everything. It is fortunate that time has no meaning over here, except for knowing when your relief arrives. Hence a calendar as everyone knows it is unemployed. It used to be that a pay day marked the end of one week and the start of another but under the new pay system, and men changing to bankers payments, even this is redundant.

By the end of next year the new camp should have been completed and the island life returned to normal with only military personnel left. In our case we are over here six weeks at a time out of 24. However, with personnel on leave, courses etc., it usually results in more frequent trips.

Getting your mail—70 per cent skill and 30 per cent luck

The all important morale booster, mail, is delivered by sea and air. The latter means is an air drop provided by the Army and constitutes 70 per cent pilots skill and 30 per cent luck. Our ground to air radio cover does not guarantee safety from flying mail sacks, chickens, butter or cucumbers — the island O.C., **Captain Steele,** R.A., was bombed out of his Landrover during one of the previous air drops. Fortunately we can boast a 100 per cent success over the last 12 months, with only one sack of mail requiring recovery from the 'Oggin.'

In short anyone requiring a few weeks contemplation and isolation from the normal social life, who is interested in ornithology, botany and a varied supply of technical and practical jobs, should consider St. Kilda/Benbecula as their next posting — my job is vacant as of next month.

The Hong Kong Festival, 1969

Submitted by Headquarters, Royal Signals, Hong Kong

FROM 9th-15th December, the Hong Kong Government sponsored a festival consisting of five groups of events. The Army provided a week's worth of military tattoo, which was seen live by well over 100,000 people.

This made sure that just before Christmas the central areas became a hive of activity, with open-air fashion shows, dancing marathons, rampant dragons, illuminations, and it was even rumoured, *topless* film stars jumping into the harbour for charity.

Even though the seven tattoo performances were given with prices of tickets absolutely at rock bottom in order to permit as many people as possible to attend, nevertheless, the Army made a profit. The star item was a free fall display by the 'Red Devils' by night, into a spot target in the middle of the tattoo arena, itself in a deep re-entrant, in the middle of the city.

FREE FALL INTO A CITY!
A "red devil" drops into the tattoo arena in the middle of Hong Kong

All Royal Signals units in the Colony co-operated to provide the necessary communications for telephones, radio control of searchlights, P.A., radio links to boats in the harbour and in-flight aircraft. In addition, we manned the searchlights ourselves. We even managed to communicate to the parachutists in their free fall. This, of course, was very important, because when our monitor on the air traffic control net indicated that a large jet, short of fuel, was just barrelling in over the hills, we could always pass the executive '*up a bit*' to the parachutist. It is rumoured that when one senior official asked C.R. Signals what the Corps was doing for the tattoo, the answer was, "making it possible, sir."

Representative of the work were the efforts put in by **Second-Lieutenant Stokoe** (48 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron) who commanded the searchlight party, and **Corporals Tuffin** and **Cottle** (252 Signal Squadron), who operated the mass of apparatus in the control box. The Commander, British Forces, **Lieutenant-General Sir Basil Eugster, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., M.A.,** invited some of the 'backroom types' to a slap-up lunch in Flagstaff House after the tattoo—we now wonder if there really was any truth in the rumour that they had starved **Major Grundy** so that his in-flight controlling from the asbestos roof above the producer's box did not become an engineering breakthrough!

DRAWING THE LOTTERY
Two charming young ladies—film starlets—help to draw the lottery tickets at the Tattoo. Flanking them Sergeant-Major Chin Ten Loy and Lieutenant Guy Meakin

Royal Signals arranged a tattoo lottery and provided the escort for (we quote): "a film starlet with appropriate build-up!" who drew the winning tickets from a tractor-mounted drum in the middle of the arena.

It was a good exercise in flexibility of communications. We hope that the Command Secretary is equally flexible when he sees the reason for loss of line stores as "eaten by Regimental Goat and Mules."

Tailpiece . . .

"Radio Relay Conquers all—or the Royal Navy may be The Senior Service, but . . . "

The scene is the wardroom of H.M.S. *Albion* (20,600 tons). Present are all those who can find time for a lunchtime gin when an LPH has embarked a Gurkha Battalion for an amphibious exercise in Hong Kong waters. Amongst those present are the Commander and **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung,** of 48th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, who commands a radio relay detachment 'working' ship to shore in this instance.

SCENE ONE

The Commander.—And how are your communications, Prem?

Prembahadur.—If some one would keep this . . . ship still for five minutes, instead of steering it in various directions all over the ocean, I might be able to line up my antennas and communicate.

The Commander.—Oh!

SCENE TWO

(The same, 20 minutes later)

Enter a Messenger

The messenger seeks out the only Signals Q.G.O. present and addresses him:

"Captain's compliments sir. Her Majesty's Ship *Albion* is now at anchor and he trusts you will now be able to communicate."

Prembahadur.—Thank you.

Contemplating House Purchase?

There is no need for us to highlight the position regarding the availability of funds for house purchase loans. Would-be HOME OWNERS who did not make positive plans for house purchase loans found it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans in the foreseeable future. This could happen to YOU!

If you take our advice this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to obtain a loan for house purchase at any time in the future.

We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone contemplating house purchase sometime in the future, to set in motion a flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you to own the house of your choice and at the lowest possible cost to yourself. Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force, the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE YOU TO BUY
TO PROVIDE A HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY
ASK OUR ADVICE NOW!

When writing for our advice on House Purchase, please give the following information:—(1) Rank, name and address, (2) Date of birth, (3) Approx price of house, (4) Loan required, (5) Date of intended purchase, (6) Details of policies held, (7) Other info you consider will assist.

For full details of the advice we offer, please telephone or write to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.)
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

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20 Arm'd Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (200) B.F.P.O. 41

The exercise scene

SINCE our last contribution we have only had one exercise, 'Small Pack,' a three-day exercise which gave us little to do from the communications side, but it did introduce us to yet another hill in our area—this one being higher and wetter than anything else we have seen so far. With the passage of a few vehicles, our main entry route became a sea of mud, and **Y. of S. Chapman,** who was towing a caravan filled with kit that we don't normally use, didn't notice that his load had overturned and he dragged it on its side for some way before he realised it. After this it was decided to leave all the other wheeled vehicles—especially the cookhouse—near the main road. This resulted in a half-mile walk from the complex for meals. There is now some talk of roughing it in villages next year.

The sporting side

In the O.C.'s address to the Squadron, **Major D. B. Carnie** summed up our attitude to sport: we do our best at all times, and if we succeed, all the better, but sport is not our primary objective. Our rugby team this year started as a very inexperienced side, and consequently lost most of its first matches very heavily, but they have improved steadily, and their last few results have been much more promising.

Our hockey team, which is potentially very good indeed, has played seven games. Our forward line is very strong, but the defence is very shaky. This is illustrated by a match against The Blues and Royals which we drew 5—5! As someone remarked it sounded like a rugby result. Most of our games have lots of goals for both sides, one exception being our semi-final of the Divisional Minor Units Cup, which we lost 3—1 to 6 Infantry Workshop.

Our soccer team seems to be doing better, however, led by the experienced **Y. of S. Noon.** The team has played some good matches, and recently beat 71 Aircraft Workshops 1—0 in the semi-final of the Divisional Minor Units Cup, with **Signalman Swinhoe** playing his usual good game.

The festive season

Christmas is upon us once more, and all the normal activities associated with it have been going at full blast. It all started with the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess draw on 12th December, and this excellent evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. **R.S.M. Mercer** spent most of his time on the dance floor, although not all of the time was spent dancing; the majority of the time he spent walking back and forth collecting his prizes which, he assured me, was just reward for last year, when he had 500 tickets and won nothing.

The following night was the Corporals' Mess draw (too much of a good thing?), which was an equally good evening, and I am pleased to say that the majority of the good prizes were won by people within the Squadron, including the star prize, a 'gianormous' stereo radiogram, which was won by **Lance-Corporal Cutajar.** I hope he has plenty of credits to pay the customs on his return to Malta early next year.

These two events were followed up by the Sergeants' Mess dining out the Brigadier, who leaves us after Christmas; the 'Alpha' Troop party; children's Christmas party; Officers' Mess Party, and finally wound up with the soldiers' Christmas dinner, with the soldiers enjoying the excellent food served up by the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s, who could also vouch for the excellent food, judging by the way they consumed the food that appeared to be going spare. We now have five days to recover before the Squadron goes off to Winterberg in early January for six weeks' ski-ing, which will take us into the new exercise season.

If this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

Why not be big and buy your own copy!

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

DECEMBER has been a hectic month for the Squadron, commencing with the horrors of the Staff Promotion Examination for your scribe and ending with the Christmas festivities.

Christmas Dinner

The traditional Christmas dinner, prepared to perfection by **Sergeant Fred Coleman** and his merry men, was served by Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron. **Brigadier Cooper** served the first meal, **Major Westlake** proposed a toast to the soldiers on behalf of the Commander, who had tonsillitis, and **Corporal King** replied to the toast.

Judging by the number of cans of P.R.I. beer consumed and the smiling faces, topping swaying bodies, seen emerging from the dining hall, the dinner was a great success.

Sergeants' Mess Draw

"It's only a bit of hardboard on some wooden batten. It'll only take a couple of hours to pull down; no trouble," said **Harry Skinner,** our L.A.D. A.S.M. So started the crashing and banging within the Mess (a long-awaited works service) that sadly stilted the merry-making over the past three months.

Behind the bit of hardboard were two thick breeze-block walls, which took several weeks to dismantle, and the services of the L.A.D. wrecker to move some of the debris.

However, the work was more or less completed in time for Christmas and the Mess looks fresh, with a new coat of paint.

Our Christmas draw played to a full house; easy now that the offending walls have been removed. **Eric Webster,** our R.Q.M.S., officiated. Our 'Duffy,' **Fred Coleman** laid on a splendid buffet that went on and on and on.

Obituary

The Squadron was deeply shocked by the tragic car accident on the evening of 10th December, when **Corporal Archer** and **Private Lewis** were killed. We wish to offer our deep sympathy to their families.

Arrivals and Departures

We welcome **Signalmen Hayes, Moulding, Hatton** and **Hughes.** We say goodbye to **Corporals Fotheringham, Hodge, Stalgis** and **Signalman Ramsay.**

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Aldershot

A NEW year starts with an acceleration promising to overheat the feet, brains and pencils and there remains but a fleeting memory of those final inebriated moments of 1969 from which to draft THE WIRE notes. Well, let's have a go!

Demonstration to R.M.A., Sandhurst

We provided the field aspect of the Corps Demonstration to the R.M.A., Sandhurst, showing a Brigade Signal Squadron in the conventional role. The cadets were quite surprised to find that they were not the only ones who 'dug in' when we showed them a hide that we use in the deep infiltration role of the Brigade. Naturally, concealment is the main object and we actually had the cadets standing on the hide without realising that **Signalman Duffy** was transmitting on his A14 three feet underneath them.

Recruiting at Catterick

Lieutenant Tony Woodhouse and **Sergeant Rollings** took a party from the Squadron for five days' recruiting in Catterick. We demonstrated radio and parachute equipment and we

allowed the recruits to fit parachutes. Two radio detachments were working to Aylesbury and Aldershot and the whole tour was extremely successful with 72 potential Airborne Signallers volunteering. Persons unknown tried to booby-trap our vehicles but they failed to apply the principle that time in reconnaissance is rarely wasted and there was nobody there to walk into the traps. If they would like to let us know who they are we will willingly show them how to set some decent booby-traps.

We are especially grateful to 11th Regiment for their tremendous co-operation and hospitality.

Adventure Training

A party of 20 went to Ullswater for five days' adventure training. Activities were canoeing, orienteering, fell walking and visits to local places of interest, such as Lake Windermere and Lake Conniston where Sir Donald Campbell died in his speedboat. The evenings were spent in the usual fashion and the sports played were soccer and darts. Our O.C., **Major Williams,** claims victory for his team over **Sergeant Rollings'** team in both matches.

Training

Apart from the normal training the Squadron has been attending Brigade Cadres in First Aid, Close Quarter Battle, German Language and Demolition in which **Corporal Campbell, Corporal Cardwell, Lance-Corporal Orritt, Signalman Jenkins** and **Signalman Pollard** did very well. **Corporal Hogg** gave an excellent demonstration of unarmed combat in the Close Quarter Battle demonstration and is now training a team to give a demonstration at Blandford in front of Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

Corporals Holmes and **Marshall** and **Signalmen Wilson** and **King** did a very useful comcen exercise with 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. We also had an excellent patrols exercise against 3 Squadron, 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, where we provided ambushes and they provided patrols. **Lance-Corporal Whittick** and **Signalman Duffy** gained several extra pairs of boots and a few of the enemy were wandering about on Long Valley a little footsore. We look forward to more exercises because they are extremely valuable training.

Lance-Corporal Harewood, Signalman Finer and **Signalman Francuz** have just returned from Malta, where they were attached to 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. During their stay they visited Greece, Cyprus and Libya, and returned full of the joys of life. We hope that **Lance-Corporal Orritt, Signalman Pollard** and **Signalman Baker,** who are taking their place, have an equally good time.

The two Air Contact Teams of **Lance-Corporal Paterson, Lance-Corporal Campbell** and **Signalman Smith** have also had a busy time in Malta, Scotland and Germany.

WEDDING OF SECOND-LIEUTENANT GRIFFIN AND MISS MARION BONNIFACE

Providing a guard of honour, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Wells, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Kelly, W.O.II (F. of S.) Kirton, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Tasker, Staff Sergeant Haughie, Sergeants Andreou, Angus, Davis, McGovern and Killick

Squadron Christmas wedding

We congratulate **Second-Lieutenant John Griffin** on the occasion of his marriage to **Miss Marion Boniface.** The Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s provided a guard of honour for the couple. This occasion also gave us an opportunity to celebrate **Sergeant M. J. Davis's** birthday. The 'groom presented him with a bottle of champagne and a challenge to drink it from a pint glass in ten seconds. The time was chanted by the remainder of the Squadron, much to the amusement of the rest of the guests.

B.C.C. Racal demonstration

Corporal Nash and **Signalman Ferguson** were invited to demonstrate Racal sets at this demonstration. They travelled to London and back in a chauffeur-driven car and were allowed as much free drink as they could consume. Someone said they were only there for the beer, when it ran out at midday!

THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN RADIO OPERATING

Signalman Ferguson at B.C.C. Demonstration

Colonel Gordon Peat, O.B.E.

The death of **Colonel Gordon Peat, O.B.E.,** came as a great shock to his many friends in the Squadron. We were proud to provide a firing party for our old Squadron Commander and all Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s attended his funeral. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Helen, and her family.

SPORT

Rugby

H.Q., 16th Parachute Brigade called on our assistance and we supplied half of their team. We have won 11 out of 12 matches.

Corporal Marshall and **Signalman Mateyawa** are playing for the Corps and Aldershot District.

Soccer

The soccer team is doing well under **Sergeant Andreou** and is now second from top in the first division of the Aldershot District League.

South-East District Cup, first round, versus 42 Survey Regiment, R.E., won 11—0; Brigade Minor Units Cup, first round, versus I Battery, 7 R.H.A., won 7—2; Army Cup, first round, versus C.O.D., Bicester, won 9—2, second round, versus H.Q., Intelligence Centre, Ashford, won 3—0.

The Squadron reached the third round of the Army Cup and were beaten by 1 R.H.F., 2—1.

Cross-country

The team is under strict training, led by **Corporal Baikie.** They are doing very well and we wish them all the best in the Army Cup Minor Units, in which they came second last year. They were first in the Brigade Minor Units, and we hope they retain the trophy.

Arrivals

We welcome **Signalman Brummell** and **Signalman Greene** from 24th Regiment.

Departures

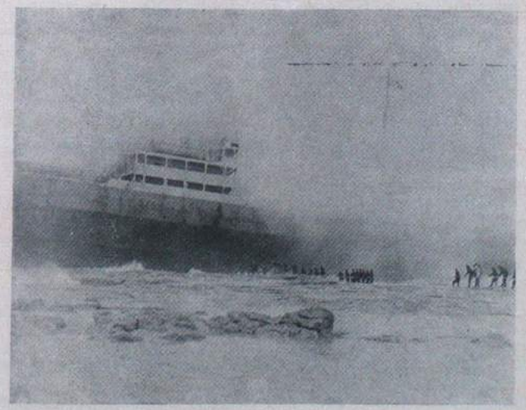
Our best wishes go with the following, who have left us recently: **Sergeant Lawbuary,** posted to 63 Squadron, S.A.S. (V); **Sergeant MacDonald,** to 18th Signal Regiment, Singapore; **Corporal Rose,** to 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; **Signalman Koto,** to 7th Signal Regiment; **Lance-Corporal Waterworth, Signalman Rennison** and **Signalman Frost,** to 244 Signal Squadron, Tangmere; **Private Summers,** A.C.C., to 99th (Gurkha) Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal Parker** and **Signalman Bell,** discharged.

234 Signal Squadron (Malta) B.F.P.O. 51

ALTHOUGH only a minor unit on a small island in the Mediterranean Sea, life does not pass us by, and the Corps flag is kept flying in more ways than one, as the following notes will show.

'Angel Gabriel'

When one thinks of Malta, the general impression must be of a sun-drenched island set in the blue Mediterranean. This, in fact, is the true image for many weeks in the year, but this was shattered at the end of September, when a sudden and violent storm wreaked havoc throughout the island. At the height of the storm a request was received for assistance in the rescue operations to save the crew of the 22,000-ton tanker 'Angel Gabriel,' which had been driven on to the rocks at Marsascala. This request was to provide radio and telephone communications from the scene of the wreck to the rescue co-ordination centre. A line detachment, under **Captain Bob Rowland,** and a radio detachment, under **Sergeant Charlie Hay,** rapidly provided this service. Once telephone communication had been established, the linemen joined the other rescuers in forming a human chain to ferry the tankers' crew to shore and safety. As a result of this joint service/civilian operation, the whole of the crew were rescued, except for one seaman who was drowned whilst trying to swim ashore.



Tanker "Angel Gabriel" aground at Marsascala with rescuers in foreground

Fitness for Role Inspection

As is the case with every unit, so with us, and the annual Fitness for Role Inspection was carried out by the Commander, British Troops, Malta, **Brigadier P. S. Ward, C.B.E., A.D.C.,** on 7th October. Since assuming his appointment on 7th May, the Commander had only paid a short visit to the unit, so this was his first opportunity to have a closer look at our varied commitments and to meet members of the unit.

Our C.D.S.O., Major 'Len' Sharp holding the bronze COMSTAR award after its presentation by the Army Commander, Brigadier P. S. Ward, C.B.E., A.D.C. Others, *from left to right,* are Mr. J. Hamsworth, Mr. E. Mangion, Mr. W. Pellegrini, Signalman S. Grech, Sergeant D. Bassford, Staff Sergeant W. Sawyer, Corporal J. Wesley, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell (C.S.O.), O.C.

Accompanied by his Staff Officer, **Captain John Mills,** and the Chief Signal Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell,** the Commander started his programme with the presentation of the COMSTAR award to our CDSO, **Major (Retd.) Len Sharp;** this was followed by the traditional parade, presentation of medals and awards, and inspection of the barrack area, where he made a point of meeting every soldier and civilian at their place of work.

After welcome refreshment in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and lunch with the officers, the Commander continued his inspection by visiting working parties at various locations on the island. These included technicians on duty in exchanges, cable gangs re-routing six main cables (thanks to the Sappers' pneumatic drills!), linemen connecting visiting naval ships in the Grand Harbour to the Services' telephone network, Airfield Troop with the R.A.F. at Luqa, and the Installation Troop re-equipping the DCN station at Fort Zonqor.

This detailed inspection of the unit meant that the Commander did not leave us until 5.15 p.m. Although it was not planned, we were able to finish the day off by watching a 30-minute display of aerobatics by the R.A.F. 'Red Arrows.' The location of our barracks is such that we literally had a grandstand view of this display (and nearly lost our chimney pots!).

Grandstand view

Being centrally situated, and facing Independence Arena, our barracks become the focal point for most ceremonial parades held in Malta. This was no exception when **H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales,** visited the island in November to participate in the bicentenary celebrations of the Royal University of Malta. The culmination of his visit was a display by the massed bands of the 1st Lancashire Regiment, 3rd Parachute Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery and King's Own Malta Regiment. This was held under floodlights and provided a fitting end to the celebrations.

Christmas and New Year Festivities

Christmas and New Year were traditionally celebrated throughout the unit at all levels, with parties and dances almost every night from the 19th December. Fortunately, the availability of duty-free beer and spirits is such that all gatherings went with a zing from the word go. Such liberal hospitality had to be carefully watched, in particular by the

Squadron Commander, **Major Sandy Hewson,** who, at one stage was having to attend three consecutive functions. However, with twelfth night just behind us, we look forward to the many projects due to come our way in 1970.

Water Polo

In the field of sport, the unit water polo team, ably led by **Lance-Corporal Wilson** and **Signalman A. Grixti** won the Inter-Service Knockout Competition by beating 2nd Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery. They were also runners-up to the Royal Engineers in the Inter-Service League. In a sport in which feelings run very high, particularly in Malta, it was gratifying to hear the comments of the Chairman of the Joint Services Sports Board, when presenting the trophy, to the effect that he had been impressed by the standard of play and the sportsmanlike conduct of both teams.

THE WINNING WATER POLO TEAM

Lance-Corporal C. Mizzi, Signalman J. Mizzi, Signalman V. Attard, Major A. M. Hewson, Royal Signals, Lance-Corporal F. Farrugia, Lance-Corporal G. Zammit, Signalman E. Xuereb, Signalman A. Grixti, Lance-Corporal F. Wilson

Retirement

Many members of the Corps will be sad to hear that **Major (Retd.) Len Sharp** has left us. He retired from Royal Signals and has been our CDSO as a retired officer since 8th January, 1964. Len and Zena left Malta on 5th January for U.K., where they are staying only a few days before emigrating to Australia. Both of them have jobs lined up out there, and they are looking forward to being with their family, who are there already and settling down. We wish them every happiness in the future—"keep your kangaroo down boy." To Len's replacement, **Captain (Tfc.) John Cotton,** we wish a happy stay in Malta.

48 Gurkha Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (246) B.F.P.O. 1

Growing up

WE have been working as an integrated H.Q. and Signal Squadron for over a year now and are beginning to get used to the idea. It's O.K. really, and the staff are happy. All we need now is an approval for our establishment and we will be on equal footing with B.A.O.R.

Activities

You name it . . . we've had it . . . exercises, visits, incidents, excitement and hard work. We've even done signalling. There has been little time to ponder and time goes quickly.

On Exercise 'Sea Horse' we were in H.M.S. 'Fearless' and all over the New Territories, chasing bandits, whilst our

JUBILATION!

Staff Sergeant Motilal Thapa, captain of the team, holds up the trophy won at the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting (Hong Kong) with evident jubilation

next exercise, 'Tinker's Curse,' is IS with the SAS and the Gurkha Para Company trying to disrupt things.

Recently **John Stokoe** and his Troop spent a couple of weeks manning searchlights at the big Hong Kong Tattoo, and at present **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur** and his merry men are helping to build a basketball court at weekends for an outlying Chinese village community, only accessible by boat. Meanwhile, **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Shyamlal** is busy re-laying lines on the Chinese border and completing final D11 test with **Lieutenant Hamish Adams**, in Nepal, for the swing from Malaya to here in a few months time.

We won the Royal Signals Rifle Meeting this year and have even got a Gurkha Signalman playing in the local rugby team.

Fitness for Role Inspections can be a nuisance, but this year we were pleased to be able to ask the Inspecting Officer to present Good Conduct and Long Service Medals to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Pete Harris** and **Sergeant Satte Rai.**

Movement

In November our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel 'Able' Dacre,** together with the Gurkha Major, **Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung, M.V.O.,** paid his farewell visit. The new C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Dexter**, accompanied them, and with the O.C., **Major Tom Livigstone,** spent much valuable time in finalising the plans for the ultimate move to Hong Kong of the rest of the Regiment next year.

Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Chris Meredith has replaced **F. of S. Tony Porritt** and occasionally puts in an appearance in his workshops between visits to Malaysia and Nepal.

W.O.II Gangabahadur is now in the hot seat as S.S.M., whilst subalterns **John Stokoe** and **Ashley Truluck** have joined us.

Captain Kelvin Kent leaves us at the end of January (on RHE) for his jaunt to the Himalayas with Chris Bonnington's expedition, and **Captain Mike Walker** has arrived to take over as Second-in-Command. **Kelvin** had a memorable farewell!

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrein), B.F.P.O. 63

S.H.Q.

SINCE our last notes we have had a change of C.R. Signals, Gulf, **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. A. J. Massey** have returned to the United Kingdom, and **Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. A. J. Jackson** are now with us. Before departing, the Squadron presented **Lieutenant-Colonel Massey** with a silver beer mug and the coveted Squadron tie. In November we held a very successful five-a-side soccer competition, the winners

being Radio Relay Troop who beat Operating Troop in a close and exciting final. **Brigadier P. J. N. Ward** presented the Pope Cup and prizes to the winners and runners-up.

The Squadron has been running a Squash competition over the last three months. A large number of the Squadron have taken a keen interest in the competition which was eventually won by the Officer Commanding, **Major John Brian,** who beat **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** in the final. Christmas is now upon us, celebrations are in full swing including a most enjoyable families' supper, organised mainly by **Sergeant Ted Lyth,** and a living-in dinner and draw, which owed much of its success to the hard work of **Sergeant Ian Ryder.**

Rediffusion Jufair

The Squadron has been largely responsible for the organisation and installation of Rediffusion Jufair. This covers the whole of the area, including all Army, Navy and Air Force living accommodation and certain working areas. The installation was done out of normal working hours. The work was largely completed by **Corporal Stan Stanley** and **Signalman 'Sandy' McBride** under the technical supervision of **F.O.S. Shone.** Now the station is in full swing and many members of the Squadron spend happy leisure hours as controllers engineers, directors, producers and of course disc jockeys. Among these we have **Corporal Harry Harrison** as Director of Broadcasting, **Lance-Corporal Dave Maxwell** as Senior Controller/Engineer, **Signalman Pete Royle** librarian, **Corporal Doug Usher,** the jazz king. Other prominent members are **Corporal Sam Hackett, Signalman Mick Morris, Corporal 'Nick' Nicklin** and **Signalman Tod O'Brien. Lieutenant Paul Whittaker** produces a daily programme 'Roundabout Jufair'—a type of magazine of the air. Improvements continue to be made to the station and its output which provides much-needed entertainment in this area.

DEFINITELY ON THE AIR NOW

Rediffusion Jufair is now daily on the air providing much needed entertainment in the area. The staff at work:

Left to Right:—Corporal Duoglas Usher, Corporal Mick Varvel, Corporal Mick Harrison and Lance-Corporal Pete Royle

M.T. Troop

Continue to carry the rest of the Squadron and regard themselves as the unsung heroes in the establishment. Ably commanded by **Sergeant 'Fergee' Ferguson** and supported by such veterans as **Corporal 'Potty' Pottinger, Lance-Corporal Tom Sinclair,** and worthy Signalmen including **'Spud' Murphy, 'Rockey' Stone, 'Jock' Cunningham, 'Jacko' Jackson, Jim (Fatman) Pagano**) and others. Unsung maybe, but certainly not indispensable!

Operating Troop

The Joint Message Centre has had the work study team in and as a result has undergone a complete face-lift; walls have been knocked down, desks moved, doors changed, all in the name of increased efficiency. It seems to have done the trick. Perhaps all this activity contributed to their defeat, as holders of the Pope Cup in the 5-a-side final. No doubt it will make them even more determined in the next competition.

Field Troop

The Troop is at present engaged across the water in the Trucial States on Exercise 'Straight Flush.' Perhaps the most notable exploit in the Troop is the sad loss of their pet parrot. Not to be downhearted for long, though, they have built a splendid aviary which they are now stocking with budgies. Provided they got their calculations right, we should have offspring budgies in the early spring.

S.W.S. Troop

Major Les Knight organises frequent fishing trips but despite a lavish scale of equipment has yet to catch a fish. On the last trip **F.O.S. Eddie Harriss** caught a 22lb. grouper—a good fish but not big enough to challenge **A.S.M. Ron Batty** for the Squadron trophy. The Troop combined with Radio Relay Troop to win the Pope Cup, **Corporal 'Paddy' Parkhill** playing a notable part. In the darts competition that followed the Troop darts team, made up of **Sergeant Mick Read, F. of S. Eddie Harriss, Corporal John Ackers, Corporal Jeff Roberts** and **Lance-Corporal Ray Kilby,** were once again defeated finalists. The Troop were asked to provide a 'hide' for Christmas for our bird-watching Second-in-Command, **Captain Bill Griffiths.** They suggested the loft in S.W.S. Troop.

Airfield Troop

Seem to have forgotten to write any notes for this issue. Two points are worthy of note; firstly, the high number of tickets that the Troop managed to sell for the Squadron Christmas draw, and secondly the exploits of the Troop Commander, **Captain Tom Scarff** (now returned from U.K. and Singapore and currently ski-ing in Cyprus) who insists on taking his car with him when he goes on his sub-aqua trips.

Adventure Training

Lance-Corporal 'Billy' Bilimoria and **Lance-Corporal Roger Beasley,** both of Radio Relay Troop, managed a visit to Teheran at the end of the year. The journey started with a Dhow crossing from Manama to Bushiri, a journey of some 26 hours for only 35 shillings—this including food and water. Then by bus to Shiraz and Abadan. After sightseeing they took the train to Tehran. Here they visited the Second Asian Fair and this has made a lasting impression on both of them. Because of a shortage of time they then flew back to Bahrein. A second venture was undertaken by **Corporal 'Nick' Nicklin.** He decided to take a leave in East Pakistan. He flew to Bombay, took a train to Calcutta and stayed there five days. He then went on to East Pakistan by train and finally arrived across the border in a rickshaw. Then by bus and finally river steamer to his final destination, Barisal. He made the return journey via the new capital of East Pakistan, Dacca. This fifteen years ago was little more than a large village—now it's a large city.

Obviously both these journeys could be written up as full articles in THE WIRE but the outlines given above can serve to show that Bahrein is a good starting point for seeing some unusual parts of the world and using unconventional means of travel. Also that the spirit of adventure in 255 is well alive.

Fitness for Role Inspection

On going to press, we have just received our F.F.R. report. We find that we have been given a grading of excellent. Well done, lads. If it's sunshine and adventure you want, why not come and join an excellent Squadron!

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1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257) B.F.P.O. 102

SINCE our first chapter, in the October issue of THE WIRE, you will have been restive for the next quarterly bulletin. Here you are—so relax!

Greetings

We send our New Year best wishes to all our friends; especially to the many who have been so directly helpful to us over the last year. The help we have received, both with training courses and on exercises from the Corps, Divisional and R.C.Z. Regiments in B.A.O.R. is very gratefully appreciated. We would also single out for mention, Royal Signals Records, A.G.11, and all those senior to us! For 1970 then, from the frozen wastes of Eastern-Western Germany, we frozen-wasters send our world-wide best wishes.

Personalities

We have had a high rate of change-over in personnel recently, which has left us a bit thin on the ground, when courses and the flu' have taken their toll.

The most awesome change was the arrival of our 'huge' new S.S.M. This has allowed the O.C. to relax considerably, as the Squadron finds its feet again, and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) C. C. Bedwell** adjusts himself from the School of Infantry to our funny little ways.

Corporal Alan Bennison, Signalman Roger Bound and **Signalman Chris Ray** have retired to civilian life. **Corporal Alex Milne** ('The Pay'), has left for Singapore and promotion. His place was taken at a fast trot by **Corporal John Berryman,** complete with cuirass and plumes, straight from the Life Guards. We now enjoy a very military manner of disbursing travel claims! ('Disbursing' is a good R.A.P.C. word!)

Corporal and **Mrs. Ray Summers** joined from the School of Signals (? Museum section) to help look after our rather elderly vehicles. **Corporal** and **Mrs. Gerry Garland,** from 10th Regiment, Hounslow; **Corporal Jock Rodigan,** from 18th Regiment, Singapore, and **Signalman Barry Weaver,** from training with 24th Regiment—comcen ops., one and all—they have increased our strength in that section by 52.4 per cent!

Last, but by no means least, **Second-Lieutenant Leslie Fox** joined on 25th November from leave after 71 'Q' Course. He enjoyed taking Communications Troop on its PE Tests on the afternoon of 26th November. Generally, he feels that although there is quite a lot he didn't realise a radio officer has to do, his feet will soon touch in the New Year. Two Troop exercises, PE testing, ranges, NBC instruction, a border patrol, and the very fact that he survived a B.A.O.R. Christmas, shows that 'Q' courses are producing the stuff their fathers were made of.

With postings, courses, ski-ing and influenza we have been a bit short of men at times

Training courses

The winter individual training season produced a horde of applicants for upgrading. All had heart-rending stories of how badly their careers would be warped if they were not allowed to be away during the administrative inspection. Many bled on the O.C.'s carpet; nineteen were successful—even if some did catch the admin., *and* miss out on Christmas/New Year leave.

Lance-Corporal Jock Rodgers successfully negotiated his Lineman BII test with 21st Signal Regiment—despite damaging his ankle playing soccer at the weekend. **Lance-Corporal Charlie Moon** and **Signalman John Merrett** have returned as Radio Relaymen BII—**Lance-Corporal Moon** glowing with pride at being top of the course—we took due note that he dropped two marks in the final exam! **Signalman Merrett** was glowing anyway, because before he went we had an illuminated address concerning his outstanding success on the 'Satisfied Soldier' scheme in his native West Country.

Signalman Dave Mumford, a 'with-it kid,' and some time driver to Squadron Commanders, has the need to wear dark glasses most of the time. However, he has now made it to BII driver, *and* gone on Christmas leave! He says he is getting engaged: we haven't seen his course report yet, so we wish him all the best in 1970!

Others are now on, or about to tackle, various courses, but we won't spoil the fun for the Training Officers and Yeomen of Signals awaiting them throughout B.A.O.R.

Our star candidate is **Sergeant Brian Rice** who, as a Corporal, attended a pre-Y. of S. QE course with 16th Signal Regiment for ages and ages, much to **Mrs. Rice's** and our loss. Now, he has not only passed the QE, but achieved promotion and been selected for the Y. of S. course next March. Through lightly-gritted teeth, we offer every congratulation!

Fitness for Role

This year we didn't have a formal administrative inspection (you know—quarter guard, rush-round the barracks, embarrassment from G.A. & Q. staff, who should know better—and/or return to Regimental duty, followed by a heavy lunch; in other words knowing exactly where you were, and how deep you were in it!) 1 (BR) Corps had a much more modern approach. All the ancillary inspections, of course, a 'crash-out' exercise for three days, rounded off by a semi-formal visit by the Commander and his staff. It ran to mountains of paper, weeks of tension, and a successful three days in the woods. All in all, a very much better way of achieving a most satisfactory report.

Exercises

Our autumn manoeuvre in 1968 was called Exercise 'Ramshead,' in 1969 it was Exercise 'Ram-Rod'—we anticipate the G staff's whim for October, 1970, with some relish!

Memorable events of our 15 days of 'Ram-Rod,' to the North of Bremen, included a night approach march to a river crossing, and the visit of the then Under Secretary of State for War, **Mr. James Boyden, M.P.** This was quite an exercise within an exercise, with extra caravans and marquees, and DBP lines, appearing as if by magic, in the middle of woods, to give comfort to the body and direct speech to London. We are told that it is coincidental political expediency that moved him to the back bench the day after he left us!

In November we had the aforementioned FFR exercise, 'Small Pack.' An incident worthy of note was a muster parade in the field to present the departing S.S.M., **W.O.II S. G. Neill,** with his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. This event may well be unique—he certainly earned it in 'the field' in his time with us for four years, and it was very appropriate method of presentation. We hope that he and his family remember us fondly as he slaves away as an R.Q.M.S. in Hong Kong.

Sport

Several of the Squadron have taken the opportunity to learn to ski on the Brigade winter training scheme in Bavaria,

Exercise 'Snow Queen.' Those who have done the course so far certainly enjoyed themselves, and can ski to some extent. They all commiserate with **Lance-Corporal Bogie Harman,** who would have done the course if the bus hadn't left half-an-hour early on New Year's Day . . . that's the story he's sticking to!

Signalman Taff Baker is a clerk and draughtsman of some repute; as a courses clerk he has been ski-ing and free-fall parachuting this year. He may turn professional later in the year and carry his log round Aldershot with the best of them.

Sergeant Mick Mandy runs our Squadron football team; they have lots of sport and enjoyment, but they have not got too far up the league table. **Mrs. Diane Mandy,** among many other accomplishments, runs the Squadron Wives' football club. They have twice met the Squadron team. Results: First match, won 4—1; second match (Boxing Day), won 14—3. We are thinking very hard about transfer fees!

Developments

Some of our equipment, to put it mildly, needs replacing. The final chapter of stone-age communications can then be closed.

In 1970, we are going to get BRUIN, we are, we are . . . we ARE. Perhaps, too, we can replace dear old 'Liz'; this is our QL office box. Actually, she is only 27, by her birth certificate, and we are very fond of her. But all that sand, and the Cairo bus time-table we found in a locker just before U.E.I. made us wonder a bit.

This is a scurrilous travesty of the true worth and beauty of 'Liz', the Signals Command Q.L.—casting value £15!

As most will know, we have had to underimplement our rear links with Gunner Regiments to a very large extent. At this level, this is not just a matter of statistics, but produces some very human problems. The O.C. has been muttering, interviewing, making calculations on the back of envelopes, and, in general, has been well exercised in his mind and ingenuity. Some chaps seem to become so rear-link integrated that, as our cartoon shows, it's difficult to know whether to reflect them to Records for posting or to take them to the vet!

We all look forward to the 50th anniversary year; are determined to uphold our rather specialised role in the Corps—and know we will enjoy ourselves doing it.

Watch this space in May.

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262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) B.F.P.O. 53

Chatham Camp (El Adem) closes

ON 18th November, a detachment from Radio Troop, consisting of **Lance-Corporal 'Chippy' Wood, Mark Ashberry** and **Signalman 'Lofty' Ludlam** flew to El Adem for what proved to be the last detachment in the Libyan Desert.

After a very bumpy ride down to Chatham Camp, the detachment settled down to a few weeks of routine HF communications, CW and voice, using a C11 with mains supply through an S.U.R. 30. Due to the proposed run-down, only a skeleton staff from the 17th/21st Lancers was in occupation, keeping the camp open while final negotiations with the Libyan Government were taking place. Maximum traffic between Chatham and El Adem was never more than six messages a day! Even so, **Lance-Corporal Wood's** first letter back to the Squadron contained a plea for a real morse key—he claimed that the key they took over on arrival had been manufactured from a broken hacksaw blade and a nail (both rusty) and two mis-shapen blocks of wood!

On 16th December the message to close Chatham came through, and the following day, men from 'B' Company, 3rd Parachute Regiment and 51 Field Squadron, R.E., arrived to set about the task of dismantling the camp.

The removal of the Signal Centre tent, one of the last to go, left our rear link radio detachment operating in the open on a 6ft. table. The final message to close was received at 12.45 hours on 19th December and Chatham Camp ceased to exist.

SPORTS

Six-a-Side Hockey

Fourteen teams assembled at Slim Barracks, Dhekelia, on Saturday, 27th December, to shake off the effects of Christmas pudding and other forms of high living. The Squadron entered two teams in the tournament, both putting up a creditable performance on the field. However, the honours should really go to **S.Q.M.S. Harry Sankey,** one of the hard-worked umpires. He started blowing his whistle at 10 a.m. and, apart from a one-hour break for lunch, didn't stop whistling until 5 p.m.! His only real worry was that the light would not last until he had finished umpiring the very exciting final.

Football

The Squadron football team has not had a very good start to the season. Their record to date is 17 matches played, five wins, one draw and 11 lost. This does not truly reflect on the team's ability, as many of the Squadron players are on detachment all over the island, and others are shift workers. It is difficult to get them all together at any one time. However, the standard of soccer in Dhekelia is a high one this season and all the matches played have been tough.

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Tom Cockerill is the Secretary of the Dhekelia Minor Units Soccer League and also team manager to the Army Team, Cyprus. The Yeoman was at one time a very keen rugger player, but since coming to Cyprus he has been converted to soccer. He still keeps his links with the rugger world by undertaking the announcing and recording at seven-a-side tournaments, one of the many commitments appearing in the Squadron's full PA detachment diary.

Social

The Squadron was plunged into a whirl of pre-Christmas activities, starting with the children's Christmas party on 16th December. **Corporal Peter Whitham** was this year's Father Christmas and distributed the presents to the children in the approved hearty manner. All went well until one enterprising young lady decided she didn't like her gift and lined up for a second!

The Christmas dance and draw was held on 17th December and was voted a great success. Our thanks go to **S.Q.M.S. Harry Sankey** and **Sergeant Joe Albon,** who put in a lot of time and effort to make it a very enjoyable evening.

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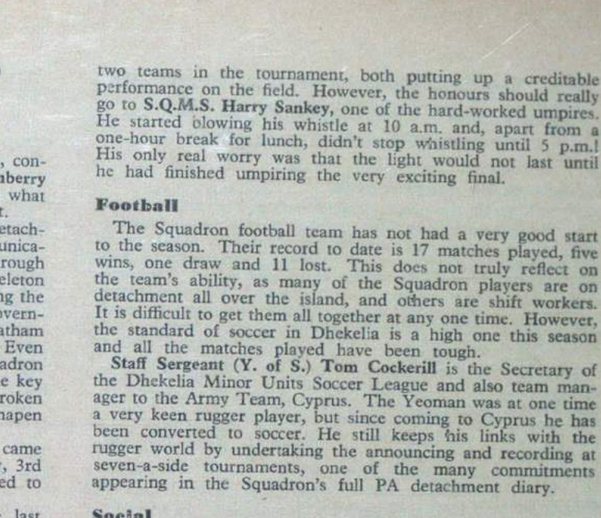

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Christmas at Scarborough

ALTHOUGH our numbers were very much reduced by the 'flu epidemic, over 400 attended the Christmas training weekend at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. After trade testing and training on the Saturday, all volunteers packed into the dining room for the annual junior ranks' Christmas dinner, served by the Officers and Sergeants. **Sergeant Hardy,** A.C.C. (V) and his team of cooks produced a first class feast and, although there was some criticism of the waiter service, a few diners left a tip.

The all ranks' dance, which followed the dinner, was an outstanding success; the dance section of our band, led by **W.O.I (Bandmaster) Peacock,** were up to their usual high standard. The Padre, **Rev. Clifford Barker,** who organised the dance, was on parade the following morning, officiating at the Regimental Christmas Service in the Parish Church. For the first time, the service included local parishioners, and the church was filled to capacity. Also officiating at the service was **Monsignor O'Mahoney,** previously Assistant Chaplain-General (R.C.).

TWO VOLUNTEERS ENJOY THEIR TRADE TRAINING AT SCARBOROUGH

Corporal Tony Everson and Signalman Phillip Pearson have a cheerful approach when training is on the programme

. . . and elsewhere

A children's party at Brambles Farm attracted 185 'contestants,' and **Sergeant Punshon** proved a generous and patient Father Christmas. The W.R.A.C. of 90 Squadron rallied to the organisers and a happy afternoon (for the children) ended with tea and toys.

The Sergeants' Mess dance and draw, social events in Darlington and Leeds for children, Sergeants and Subalterns, were all well supported and successful.

Canoe Communications

49 Squadron, in Leeds, were particularly commended recently for the high standard of radio communications provided for the Northern Command Canoe Championships. A 25-mile race from Ripon to York produced several incidents which were controlled and action taken through the network provided.

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)
Wanstead

THE last quarter of 1969 passed traditionally with the commencement of the winter training cycle, the Regimental Rifle Meeting, Remembrance Day celebration and the social season.

Open Day at Ilford

An unusual feature was an evening demonstration of equipment and facilities laid on for representatives of the management of local firms and local organisations. This was sponsored by the Borough of Redbridge Deputy Lieutenant's T & AVR Committee which is chaired by the Representative Deputy Lieutenant, **Brigadier H. B. Jolly, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.** Firms taking part included the Ford Motor Company, the Plessey Company, Ilford Ltd. and the London Electricity Board. Local youth organisations also attended.

After an introductory talk by **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway** and a projection of colour slides showing recent activities, the visitors toured the training area, inspected a radio relay detachment, comcen, the T.M. Troop workshop and the L.A.D. The visitors showed a keen interest in all they saw and we feel that the evening was most useful in convincing employers that the Regiment is a going concern and that recruitment should be encouraged.

Annual Rifle Meeting

This year the event was held at Colchester in fine weather after a misty start. There was a full entry from all Squadrons in the rifle, S.M.G., pistol and falling plate competitions. A clay-pigeon shoot proved a popular side-show with the members of the Regiment and their families alike. The event was ably organised by **Lieutenant I. M. Kennard** and **R.S.M. B. S. Howie.**

H.Q. Squadron won the rifle, pistol and S.M.G. competitions, 45 Squadron took two individual prizes, **Signalman West** winning the rifle and **Captain A. Woodhouse** the pistol competitions. **Major B. E. M. Prophet** (R.H.Q.) was the runner-up in both. **Staff Sergeant McNally** was top scorer with the S.M.G. The falling plate competition had to be abandoned when picknickers trespassed into the safety area behind the butts. This did not marr the prizegiving, however, when we were to welcome **Mrs. Willway,** who graciously carried out the task.

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday, 9th November, 1969, H.Q. Squadron and the Ilford element of 45th (Essex) Signal Squadron provided a detachment for the Redbridge Borough Civic Service held at the War Memorial, Ilford. The detachment was under command of **Captain W. Allen** who laid the Regiment's wreath. The Regiment also provided lance bearers round the memorial. The Commanding Officer was invited to join the Mayoral party on the saluting dais.

40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V)

THE Ulster Signal Regiment has constantly changed and improved, and, judging by some of the projected ideas for 1970, this situation will continue.

I shall begin by looking back at some of the events at the end of 1969.

Major Norman Baker has taken over the Training Major's reins from **Major Dick Carroll** and has had his 'battle inoculation' during the return from the Group Study Period at Catterick.

We have an Irish song, 'Are you right there, Michael, are you right'? which tells in a very comical way the inefficiency of the old Dublin to Clare turf-burning railway. We can now regard this song as serious, when we consider the Darlington to London express on Sunday, 16th November.

The last straw

We didn't mind the tour round the Norfolk Broads in the dark, nor the fact that this 'express' arrived an hour late, but when the restaurant car ran out of beer, somewhere between Little Witherington and Ashton-Under-Wash, a deep disenchantment with British Rail set in.

If anything so untoward happened in Ulster, the guard would have enough wit to stop the train at the nearest off-licence and re-stock. **Major Baker** was elected O.C. party, as he was the only one au fait with ways of the English, and was immediately 'conned' by two taxi drivers into believing that they could get his party to London Airport in time for our plane. We weren't even in time to wave goodbye, and the bar was shut!

At this stage he gave up reliance on civilian services and, with the help of the R.A.F., organised succour and accommodation for the night and got us back safely to 'God's Own Country' next day. Details of 'Exercise Baker' are available from our publishers, in a plain envelope, price 6d. limp, 7d. with a hard cover.

PROBLEM PHOTO—WHAT IS HE LOOKING FOR?

Are there leprechauns in Yorkshire? According to the Irish, of course, there are. An incident photographed on 40th Ulster Signal Regiment's exercise 'All Stir'—1969 vintage at Scarborough

The long weekend

Brigadier Jackson, who was accompanied by **Mrs. Jackson,** visited us for a long weekend. On Saturday they were guests of the officers at an informal party in the Mess, and on Sunday inspected both Belfast and Lurgan personnel. The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented to **Staff Sergeant Alan Till** and **Sergeant Bernard Caffrey; Corporal Jack Haslam,** A.C.C., received the Territorial Efficiency Medal. At the same time, inter-Squadron Shields and Cups were awarded to **Signalman Ronald Gilliland** and **Private Annie Bailey,** W.R.A.C.

Somewhat of a cloud hangs over the non-attendance of the Brigadier and the C.O. at the Sergeants' Mess annual dance and draw on the previous Friday. A phone call was received during Friday evening explaining that **Brigadier** and **Mrs. Jackson** were 'held up' in Dublin. My immediate reaction was not why, but who, was holding them up? The phrase here is used in its broadest sense and is in no way derogatory.

Modern times in Dublin!

The explanation of the true facts is quite simple. It seems that there was a bomb scare on the way from their home to London Airport, this required a diversion, which caused them to be late for their plane to Belfast. The plane was grounded through fog, but they took off six hours later, only to be diverted to Dublin en route.

At Dublin, a transport strike caused some bother, and to add to this, the Dublin to Belfast train didn't leave until 9 p.m. because of a derailment, and to liven things up, their luggage managed to get on the wrong train and arrived in Belfast at 4 a.m. with the mail! Truth stranger than fiction?

We attended the local church on Remembrance Sunday. Unfortunately, the congregation were denied the spectacle of our usual parade with band, as all parades in Ulster are, for the moment, not allowed.

The Regiment indulged in the usual Christmas festivities. This year we were spared the embarrassment of explaining why our Father Christmas was different! On a previous year a member of the Regiment, who shall be nameless, volunteered to be Santa Claus. As a small reward, he was given a 'couple of rums' to inspire courage. These he drank through the beard and then appeared before innocent children like some later-day minotaur.

Aim—Hundred per cent recruiting target

A volunteer is worth ten pressed men, but in 40th a recruit is worth at least ten Poseidon shares and, judging by proposed recruiting plans, **Colonel Ha'l** is going to corner the market. Our record to date is quite good; we have the best recruiting average of any other Regiment in Ulster. But if all the C.O.'s ideas work, we'll be a hundred per cent over strength before camp.

85 Squadron have moved Squadron Headquarters to Lurgan Town. **Captain Dennis Gilpin, Lieutenant Bill Malone** and **Sergeant Joseph Mitchell** have brought the strength of 81 RR Troop, in a comparatively short time, to the very presentable strength of thirty.

Finally, our W.R.A.C., of 756 Troop, are coming up to strength nicely, and seven of them are attending a local civilian 'Sight and Sound' course.

We wish them success.

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RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1970 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately nine months, according to the trainee's progress, are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1970.

During training, a salary will be paid on the following scale:

Age 21	£800 per annum
22	855 „ „
23	890 „ „
24	925 „ „
25 and over	965 „ „

Free accommodation will be provided at the Training School.

After successful completion of the course, Operators will be paid on the Grade 1 scale:

Age 21	£965 per annum
22	1025 „ „
23	1085 „ „
24	1145 „ „
25 (highest age point)	1215 „ „

then by six annual increases to a maximum of £1,650 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course and must have at least two years' operating experience. Preference given to those who have G.C.E. or P.M.G. qualifications.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1970.

Application forms and further particulars from:

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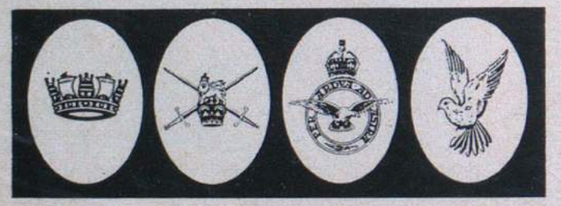

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Story by Lieutenant G. Davies

First, let me briefly explain what is meant by the title of the article. An ESR, as it is abbreviated, differs from an SR by having as its limit the Persian Gulf, as opposed to merely the Mediterranean, and I was lucky enough to be allowed to go in Canberra *M* RTYO.

I was duly kitted out with the various accoutrements, such as flying suit, jacket, gloves, intercom/oxygen, parachute harness, parachute, inflatable dinghy, etc., and given a thorough brief on what and what not to do. After a short delay, I took up my position, lying down in the nose of the aircraft and we finally took off.

We climbed swiftly above the clouds to 45,000 feet and on passing the Eifel we were able to see the ground for the first time.

Snow, snow and more snow. Through Luxembourg into France, over Lyons, across the Alps; a quick look at Nice and so over the Med. Then life became a little boring. Did I say boring? Instead of snow it was clouds, and the interior of the aircraft seemed to grow steadily colder; ice had long since formed on the bare metal and the internal temperature was a steady –4°C. It was at this point that the Navigator passed me my packed lunch of sandwiches and I settled down to the steady routine of oxygen mask off, take a bite of one frozen sandwich, mask on, and chew. The experience is unique, to put it mildly.

The crew **Flight-Lieutenant Graham Hacket** (Driver) and **Flight-Lieutenant Malcolm Caygill** (Navigator) kept the Canberra plodding steadily onwards. We caught a faint glimpse of Southern Italy and no more until I had my first view of Cyprus and R.A.F. Akrotiri. We duly landed, having lost an hour in time on the way, rushed through paper work and a meal and off to change.

In the bar we met members of another Squadron from Germany, and together we decided to sample the delights of kebab in Limassol, liberally washed down with lots of kokinelli. I will leave readers to imagine the rest.

The following morning: 05.00 hours reveille, breakfast, and finally take-off. We climbed to 20,000 feet and then trouble. Both aircraft generator warning lights came on and the skipper pressed on, hoping it would clear. Another half-hour convinced him. Both aircraft generators were almost permanently off and **Flight-Lieutenant Hacket** requested permission to return to Cyprus. This we did and then spent 1½ hours burning off fuel at low level before being able to land. After landing a technician arrived and began poking and probing about; at approximately 17.00 hours we called it a day and returned to the Mess to have a quiet night catching up on sleep.

Wednesday found Graham dashing around attempting to persuade everyone that we were top priority, in an effort to get the aircraft serviceable. All this achieved was to have it trundled into a hangar by later afternoon, where it stayed till Thursday afternoon, when we were once more airworthy. Flight plans were quickly made to ensure an early take-off on Friday morning, and it was decided to have a final meal and a little more kokinelli that night in Limassol.

At 05.00 hours on Friday again we rose, reluctantly, and made our way to the aircraft. We loaded the aircraft with the mementoes of our visit, including bottles of the various local brews and took off.

At 10.30 hours Cyprus time (09.30 hours Malta time), we landed at Malta. The plane had developed the same trouble, and again the same dashing around to get it fixed. This time we were lucky and it only took four hours to repair.

Another flight plan, another quick meal and a look at R.A.F. Laarbruch met forecast, which was enough to convince us we should stay; but this was not to be.

We finally lifted off at 15.15 hours, Malta time, en route to Germany, with the prospect of being diverted to U.K. for the weekend, but our luck held. Over Luxembourg, a quick call to Laarbruch revealed that the freezing fog had lifted and we would be able to land. A lot of people were still slogging away at Laarbruch to ensure all would be ready for our return, and we duly touched down at 18.45 hours, much to the relief of all, including our wives.

A marvellous experience for me, and I am very grateful to all those who made it possible for me to take part. Uncomfortable, yes; exhilarating, yes; different, very; and I can't wait for another opportunity to do it again.

The Courage and Pride of Corps of an Old Comrade

MR. AND MRS. E. W. MASON
"You who serve in such a Corps have something to be proud of"

Courage is the keynote of this Old Comrade and his wife. Now, at the age of 72, a cripple, he has, he says, plenty of time to look back on his Service with Signals, not sorrowfully, but with pride.

Mr. Mason writes from 1, St. Margaret's Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey:

"Like many other Boy Scouts, etc., at the age of 17 (just) I 'put on' two years and enlisted in the Signals, R.E., as it was then was, and in due course, at the time of the Battle of Loos, my pal, 96628 **Sapper E. Henley** and myself 94645 **Sapper E. W. Mason** were drafted to Ypres to No. 4 Section Signals, 18 Infantry Brigade, 6th Division, where we were a happy crowd of Comrades. Our Section Sergeant, **Cook**, my pal, and myself were in the gas attack on December 1915. **Henley** and I were linemen, out together on a fault. **Sergeant Cook** was awarded the D.C.M. for devotion to duty, and my pal and I who managed to get the line through to 51st Brigade ZEA, were both Mentioned in Despatches by **General Sir D. Haig.**

I am now 72 years of age and crippled in both hips and multi-arthritis of the spine, which gives me blackouts at any time. So for the last eight months I look out from my bed and have time to think of the days past, *not* sorrowfully. I get around the room with an invalid chair and have been promised an electric model so that my wife can take me out sometimes. I do not get a pension as my disability did not show itself until 1938, when quite a lot of irreparable damage was noticed. I have had plenty of time to reflect on the comradeship that existed among Signals troops. I had a pal in hospital when I came back from France; he was from the Dardanelles. We split and he went to Mesopotamia, **Sergeant Greetham,** of Harrogate in a cable section under **Allenby.** He was awarded the D.C.M. I was patched up and served in Signals in Egypt, Macedonia, Constantinople and Army of the Black Sea, under **General Sir Geo. Milne.** I wonder how many of those 'old boys' exist. I would like to convey my thought of *esprit de corps* to all those who now serve. My son served in Aden and Libya, my nephew was commissioned from Royal Corps of Signals to Royal Warwicks attached Indian Army in the last war.

You who serve in such a Corps have something to be proud of. Although rather battered and bent, I am not sorry that I had the honour of being one of the Band of Comrades."

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) **Ernest W. Mason**

P.S.—Remembrance day should be honoured in perpetuity.

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Association News

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: M. H. Jones, 42, Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff, CF5 3DB.

In our last article we gave out the news that our Hon. Secretary, **Morgan Jones** had decided not to stand for re-election for office in 1970. We can now state with infinite pleasure and relief that he later agreed to accept nomination for at least one more year. We cannot pay too high a compliment for the great work he has, is and will be doing for this branch and for the Association.

I have visited Morgan when he has been engaged in clearing our correspondence, and I marvelled at the tolerance of his wife, Rona, when I saw the mound of paperwork he had then to deal with.

We have met our new President, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** M.I.E.R.E., M.B.I.M., when he attended our December meeting. He impressed us very favourably with his address to members at that meeting, and with his insistence on being introduced to each member present, including their wives.

By coincidence, we had just received the Honour Membership Award to **Ted Whitfield,** Vice-Chairman, Standard Bearer and 'general duties' man, also a Founder Member of this branch. **Lieutenant-Colonel Curl** kindly presented this award with literally a moment's notice in which to prepare.

The 'flu epidemic has added to the burdens of our hard-pressed Welfare Officers, **Don Gould** and **Ted Dalziel.** For a while we were struggling along with Don only, Ted having been laid low. Both are now operational again, we are happy to say.

The 'flu epidemic must carry the blame for what turned out to be a very disastrous New Year's Eve Dance. The first 'flop' we have ever experienced and we hope the last! Our Armistice Dance, by contrast, was a tremendous success and enabled us to provide some token of Christmas cheer to some of our older and less fortunate members.

We welcome **Geoff. Coxe** to his new post as Assitant Secretary. Geoff. recently retired from service with the Regiment, during which he devoted considerable time and assistance to the activities of this branch. He replaces **Ken Bound,** who has retired from office at his own request, because of domestic commitments. Ken is another dedicated member and has performed valuable work for us and for the Regiment. He has promised continued support.

Chris. Jones has also retired from office on the committee; regrettably, his employment and distance to travel has hampered his support to some extent. This is most unfortunate, because Chris is one of our young members and we are trying to persuade this age group to accept office and the eventual running of the branch. The older members have worked long and hard and will continue to do so, they would be far happier though, to see a team of young members lined up in readiness to step in.

We close with a 'thank you' note to **Lieutenant-Colonel F. Ramsbottom,** our last President, who kindly remembered us with a Christmas greeting card. We wish him all he wished us.

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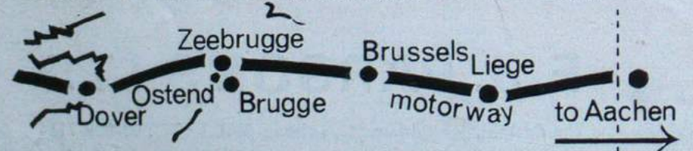

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March-April 1970

THE

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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RADIO OPERATORS

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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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MARCH/APRIL • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 3**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

This month's cover picture illustrates the three souvenir articles now on sale to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Corps, namely, a bone-china figurine of a corps trumpeter, a crested beer mug and "Through to 1970," the story of the first 50 years of the Corps. Further details will be found in the descriptive leaflet inserted in this WIRE, which also includes order forms for the souvenir articles.

No doubt many units will wish to organise bulk orders for these souvenirs. Readers who are still serving should therefore enquire from their P.R.I. whether they are advised to order individually or through their unit.

We are informed that there are plentiful stocks of the beer mugs and "Through to 1970." The figurine is, however, a 'collectors item' and is being limited to a total of 250 pieces. It will, therefore, be a question of the early bird catching the worm in order to obtain one of these.

Decimal Currency — Some useful information

There is now less than a year to 'D' day—15th February, 1971, when Britain changes its present currency to decimal currency. Everybody will be affected. Wages will be paid in the new currency and everyone's shopping habits will be changed.

FACTS

The Pound (£) is unchanged. It is divided into 100 new pence (100p), each worth 2.4 of our present pence. The lowest value coin will be the new halfpenny, worth 1.2 of our present pence.

The symbol for the pound will remain £; the new penny will be abbreviated to p and the new halfpenny will be written as ½p.

Our seven £sd coins and the 10s. note are being replaced by six decimal coins but the changes will not all take place at once.

Cupro-nickel (silver) coins of 5p and 10p came into circulation in April, 1968. Except for the designs they are identical with shillings and two-shilling pieces and are completely interchangeable with them.

A seven-sided cupro-nickel (silver) 50p coin also started to replace the 10s. note from 14th October, 1969. It has a smooth, non-milled edge and in size and weight is about midway between a two-shilling piece and a half-crown. Its shape is technically known as an equilateral curve heptagon.

There will be three new bronze (copper) coins: ½p, 1p and 2p. Two ½p coins weigh the same as a new penny (1p) and two 1p coins weigh the same as one 2p, so weight and value are proportional. A pound's worth (£1) of the new bronze weighs a little over ¾lb.

The bronze coins will not be legal tender until 'D' day, but souvenir sets are already available from banks.

The old halfpenny (½d.) was demonetised from 1st August, 1969, and the halfcrown from 1st January, 1970. After demonetisation coins are not legal tender; they cannot be spent in shops and there is no obligation on the banks to exchange them.

On and from 'D' day all banking documents, including cheques, will have to be written in decimal currency using the new £p system in place of the £sd one.

Most Government departments will change to decimal working on 'D' day and income tax, social security benefits and deductions, etc., will be decimalised. The Post Office and many shops and offices will also switch immediately.

'D' day will be followed by a changeover period, not exceeding 18 months in length, during which it will be legal to conduct business (except banking) in either £sd or £p and business will select the date for their own changeover. Pennies, three-penny bits and sixpences will be demonetised at the end of this period.

CONVERSION

To convert shillings to new pence multiply the shillings by five:

1/-	equals 5p	6/-	equals 30p
2/-	„ 10p	7/-	„ 35p
3/-	„ 15p	8/-	„ 40p
4/-	„ 20p	9/-	„ 45p
5/-	„ 25p	10/-	„ 50p

The following shows the table for conversion of old pence to new pence. This new half-penny table will be used in everyday shopping situations; whilst the whole new penny table will be used and needed for banking and most machine accounting. Both tables round down the same number of amounts as are rounded up so that if they are applied consistently losses and gains balance out. When the new half-penny table is used to convert a sum of money the shillings should first be converted simply by multiplying by five. The pence should then be converted using the table below and the two amounts should be added together. When the whole new penny table is used to convert a sum of money the largest even number of shillings in it should first be converted. The remainder, i.e. the amount between 1d. and 1/11d. should then be converted in accordance with the table and the two amounts added together.

SHOPPERS' TABLE

(or new halfpenny table)

£sd	£p	£sd	£p
1d	½p	7d	3p
2d	1p	8d	3½p
3d	1p	10d	4p
4d	1½p	11d	4½p
5d	2p	1s	5p
6d	2½p		

BANKING AND ACCOUNTING TABLE

(or whole new penny table)

1d	0p	1/1	5p
2d	1p	1/2	6p
3d	1p	1/3	6p
4d	2p	1/4	7p
5d	2p	1/5	7p
6d	3p	1/6	7p
7d	3p	1/7	8p
8d	3p	1/8	8p
9d	4d	1/9	9p
10d	4p	1/10	9p
11d	5p	1/11	10p
1s	= 5p	2s	= 10p

(The future of the 6d. in now under re-consideration. It is possible it may not be demonitized after all).

* * *

RESERVE ARMY OFFICERS' BALL

The Ball is being held at the Rainbow Room, Derry Street, Kensington, W.8, on Friday, April 3rd, at 7.30 for 8.15 p.m. Tickets are £2 15s. 0d. each, and may be obtained from **Captain A. L. Felton,** 25, Chelsea Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Car park facilities (charge 5s.) are available on application when tickets are ordered.

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.

— *7 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron*

for winning the Minor Units Competition in the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championships and . . .

— *21st Signal Regiment*

for winning the Major Units Competition in the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Championships (see unit notes on page 116). Both teams now go forward to the Army Championships at Aldershot, but see 'Stop Press' overleaf.

— *Lieutenant Leigh Hood, of 22nd Signal Regiment*

for having, in all probability, broken the British National two-seater gliding gain of height record in a KA 7 glider with **Corporal Mick Slater,** R.A.F. The actual height gained is not officially known yet, and the record has to be officially verified, but the absolute height reached was over 27,000 feet.

— *Corporal D. S. Baikie, of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron*

for being selected to represent the Army at cross-country running.

— *Corporal R. A. Hogg, of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron*

for being selected to represent the Army at judo.

— *Sergeant I. Cairns of 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)*

for being selected to play for the Army rugby side against Surrey, Bristol and Cambridge University, and also being selected to play in the Combined Services' team against Scottish District. We now learn that he has been selected to play for the Army against the Royal Navy.

— *Sergeant Peter Smurthwaite of 14th Signal Regiment*

for being awarded his Army Soccer Colours after playing for the British Army against the French Army in the Kentish Cup. **Sergeant Smurthwaite** is a regular member of the Army and Corps teams, and also the star player of 14th Signal Regiment soccer team. He is an accomplished player in many fields and his performances are always in keeping with the best spirit of the game.

— *7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron Ski Team*

for showing just what can be achieved by a comparatively small unit by hard training and determination when it comes to competitive ski-ing. Among many successes, they have been chosen to find three members of the British Biathlon team and they will have more soldiers in the team than any other unit in the Army (see report on page 99).

— *The Basketball Team of 18th Signal Regiment*

for winning the Singapore and District Basketball Challenge Trophy when they beat 14 Commando R.M. by 48pts. to 38pts. Now they are in the FARELF final which is being played in Hong Kong.

PROMOTIONS

Owing to the very lengthy list submitted by Officer-in-Charge Records, these will be found at the end of this WIRE.

Stop Press

Corps runners dominate Army Cross Country Championships

The Corps made an excellent showing at the recent Army Cross-Country Championships. Out of a total of 19 teams in the finals no less than four came from the Corps—the 8th and 21st Signal Regiments in the major units and the 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron and 216 Parachute Signal Squadron in the minor units. In addition there were a number of Corps individual runners, **Sergeant Houston** (School of Signals), **Corporal Venus** (22nd Signal Regiment) and **Signalman Rideout** (224 Signal Squadron).

Final results were:

Major Units: 21st Signal Regiment, 2nd. Minor Units: 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, 2nd; 7 Armoured Brigade Squadron, 3rd. Individuals: Senior, **Corporal Venus,** 4th; Junior, **Signalman Rideout,** 1st.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, 1970

Celebrations to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary will be held at Salisbury and Blandford on Sunday, 21st June. Programme of events:

11.15 a.m. A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Salisbury Cathedral (dress for serving members will be Service Dress, No. 1 Dress, hat, medals, Sam Browne as appropriate, and gloves for officers).

12.30 p.m. March past in Salisbury of Old Comrades and serving contingents.

2.30 p.m. Open Day at the School of Signals, including a pageant on the theme 'A Hundred Years of Signalling.'

5.15 p.m. Retreat.

(Lunch and tea will be available at Blandford on repayment).

All members of the Corps, serving or retired, and their families are cordially invited to take part in the celebrations, and it is hoped that as many as possible will attend.

Regular and T.A.V.R. members of the Corps should apply through their units or headquarters if they wish to attend. Retired members of the Corps should apply through the General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3 (Tel. 01-730-4129) as should members of the Royal Signals Association who do not belong to branches. Members who belong to branches should apply through their branch secretaries. Retired members, including Association members, are asked to make every effort to submit provisional attendance figures as soon as possible to assist in the planning of administrative arrangements.

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

'The Wire' is always eager to receive items of Corps news of interest to its readers. If short, such items can be sent in by telephone or signal even after the closing date for written copy. So let us hear about anything that may be of interest—sporting successes, unusual feats by individuals, news of retired members—anything that you think should be in 'The Wire.'

Be newsminded and keep us informed (Tel. No. 01-730-4129).

We hate to say:

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

ROYAL SIGNALS 50th ANNIVERSARY 1970 CELEBRATIONS

SPECIAL ROYAL SIGNALS ONE-DAY COVER

Orders for these Covers can now be placed. Please use order form below.

To: Royal Signals Philatelic Officer,
11th Signal Regiment,
Helles Barracks,
Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire. Date .....

Please send ..... copies of the Royal Signals 50th Anniversary One-Day Cover (5/- each) issued on 28th June, 1970, to:

.....
..... Give name and
..... full postal address

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order for £ : : to cover the cost. (Note: Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to: PRI, 11th Signal Regiment).

Signed .....

ROYAL SIGNALS BAND PROGRAMME, 1970

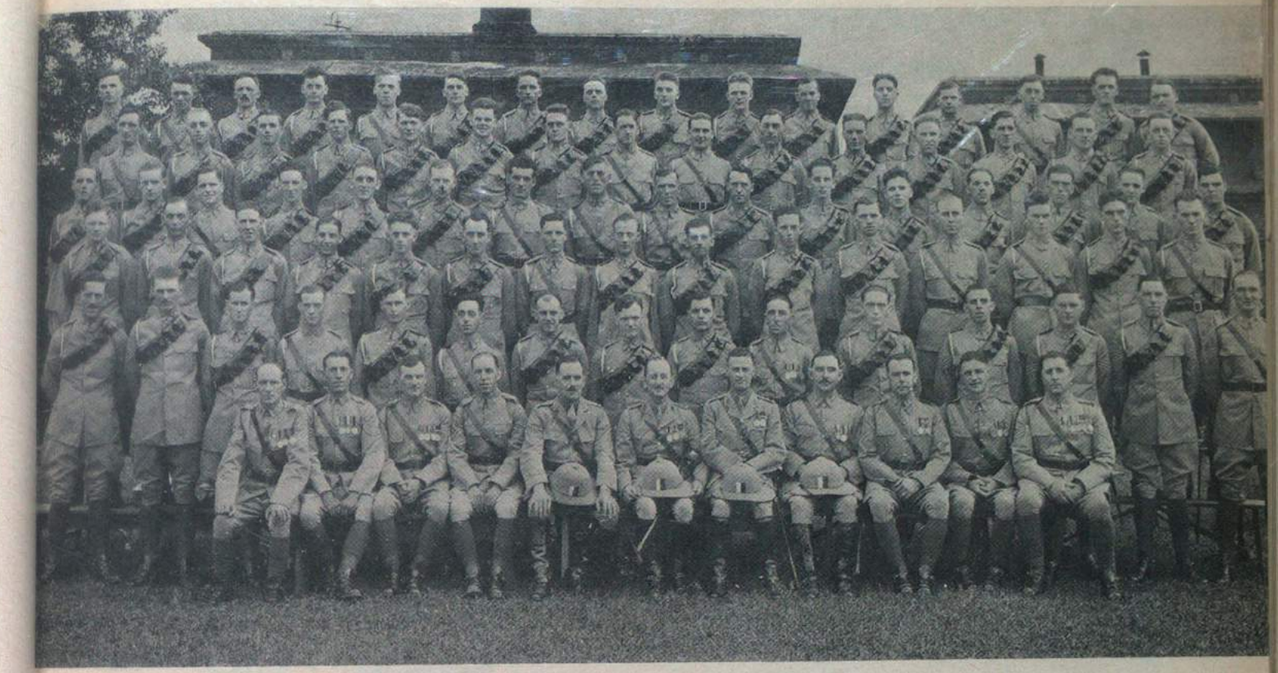
May		
	2nd-4th	14th Signal Regiment, Worcester.
	5th-10th	10th Signal Regiment, Hounslow.
	17th-23rd	Victoria Embankment Gardens.
	24th-6th June	Eastbourne.
	29th-31st	224 Signal Squadron, Loughborough.
June		
	3rd-5th	Royal Visit, Blandford.
	8th-13th	Queen's Birthday Parade and Rehearsals, Catterick.
	16th	Corps Reception, London.
	20th	Corps Tea Party, Blandford.
	21st	Service of Rededication, Salisbury. Open Day, Blandford.
	22nd-28th	Royal Signals 'At Home,' Catterick.
July		
	2nd	Freedom of Richmond.
	11th-1st August	Royal Tournament.
August		
	2nd-15th	Touring Band, Eastbourne.
	16th-22nd	St. James's Park, London.
	30th-5th Sept.	Folkestone.
September		
	10th	Concert, Blandford High School.
	20th-4th Oct.	Touring Band, Eastbourne.
	26th	260 Signal Squadron, Shoeburyness.
October		
	23rd-25th	13th Signal Group, Perth.
	28th	Concert, Huddersfield.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS—SCOTLAND

These are being held at Perth on the weekend of 24th/25th October.

The organisers are anxious to obtain the names and addresses of all Signals and R.E. Signals who live in Scotland or have connections with Signals in Scotland.

Please write to R.H.Q., 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W. (Tel. 041-339-8401) by whom fuller details will be notified later.



Do you see yourself here?

Some of the British element of 3rd Indian Divisional Signals, Meerut, India, 1932. Many Corps personalities can be discerned on close inspection of this photograph. See Mr. Sanderson's letter below. He himself is eighth from the left in the second row.

From our "In" Tray

'Olde World' wireless stalwarts

Sir,

I have followed, with great interest, the correspondence in THE WIRE, re 'Olde Worlde' wireless stalwarts. I fully endorse **Don Banham's** correction of **Mr. Scantlebury's** version of the code used by CQL R.A.F. Miranshah. Although they had much more power than the 2R Group, it was a pleasure to work them daily with the strong clear signal. Searching for 2KA during the hot season, after working CQL was certainly responsible for many ex-members coming from the D.S.

Reference the photograph of **Don Banham** and the motor-bike—I'm afraid **Spike Stanley's** bike was overworked that day. I actually took that snap and also one of the fitter of the Section. Was his name Palling—a country-born lad? Someone correct me, please.

By the way, for this link with the past, I have to thank **R.S.M. Ray Todd**—well-known to the older members of the Corps and especially those who attend the reunions at Catterick. He lives in this same village. When he drew my attention to the Banham photos, I think I rather surprised him when I rooted out my old albums and showed him the originals!

As you will see, sir, I am sending on some snaps which I hope will be suitable for reproduction in THE WIRE—I know they will raise nostalgic memories for someone, somewhere.

Yours sincerely,
I. Sanderson, 2318995
Ex-Bannu Signals, N.W.F.P.

3, Clifton Place,
Normanby, Middlesbrough, Teesside.

DAYS GONE BY

First effort at Bannu with the No. 1 set mounted on a pack-horse. Morse key attached to my wrist—sometimes the quick release cord to the transmitter did not work! The one on the left is me! (See letter from Mr. Sanderson)

Changing Wire Title

Sir,

Reference **Captain Grant's** letter in the January/February issue of THE WIRE.

Being just a 'camp-follower,' my opinions may be of little consequence, but I like the present title of the Corps magazine for its brevity and oblique reference to the work of the Corps.

I find his suggested title too long and old-fashioned, conjuring up a picture of a little man with signalling flags and heliograph—an image I am sure we in Royal Signals would not want to project today.

Yours etc.,

Erica G. Wheeler (Mrs.)

6, Highwood Barracks,
Lordship Lane, London, S.E.22.

Sir,

I so much agree with your comment on **Captain Grant's** suggestion that the name of your Magazine should be changed. Why must everything good be changed without real cause? Anyway I have always understood that Signaller referred to Infantry and Gunner tradesmen, whereas in your Corps they were known as Signalmen.

Yours faithfully,

B. M. Cowley, Brigadier.

Deputy Secretary, Council of Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Associations.

Centre Block,
Duke of York's Headquarters,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

Sir,

Captain Grant, January/February issue, has a point. I would not disagree with him, except his suggested title 'Signaller'—horrible thought for this day and age.

If it is to be changed I can think of no better title than 'Through.'

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Dirs, Major.

East Riding of Yorkshire Cadet Force,
Norwood Far Grove,
Beverley, Yorks.

Chained to the Kitchen Sink

Sir,

Shame, sir, on your usually excellent publication.

I was very interested in the account of the marriage of the 'Confirmed bachelor,' **Colour-Sergeant A. G. Nicholson,** as reported from 4th Division Signal Regiment. I can confirm the riotous weekend, and the welcome gift of the kitchen sink. However, although not mentioned originally . . . I was there, and have been chained to the sink ever since.

Ina D. Nicholson

Née ex-W/178062 Staff Sergeant I. D. Atkinson
Life Member No. 22253

B.F.E.S. Ladies' Mess,
Herford, B.F.P.O. 15.

(Omission regretted, but this was the account as received by us.—May your chain be a flexible one.—Editor).

CALLING SIGNALMAN TED MARCUS

Signalman R. M. Herbert, of 'D' Troop, 2 Squadron, 22nd Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 16, and his wife, would like to get in touch with **Signalman Ted Marcus,** an old friend. If this catches the Signalman's eye please contact **Signalman Herbert** at the address given.

The longest serving member of the Corps still in uniform?

Sir,

I hope the subject of this letter is relevant to Royal Signals 50th Anniversary Year, 1970.

During the coming weeks there will be talk in many Messes regarding who is the longest serving member of the Corps still in uniform.

Well, I thought it might be a good idea if I started the ball rolling with a claim on my own behalf as the longest serving Reservist still in uniform.

Date of enlistment: 29th June, 1931. Place: Fulham House, Fulham, S.W.6.

Present service: H.Q., Special Communications T. & A.V.R.

Yours sincerely,

F. J. Crampton, W.O.I.

15, Malvern Road,
Aylesbury, Bucks.

From Puerto Rico . . .

Mr. Geoffrey Wakefield, F.R.H.S., an ex-member of the Corps, writes from Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, hoping to renew friendships made during his service days. **Mr. Wakefield** joined the Corps in October, 1936, and was demobilised in January, 1946. He served in England with 'F' Troop, Mobile Division Signals, at Tidworth, Kohat District Signals, Kohat, N.W.F.P., India, Waziristan District Signals, Razmak and Dehra Ishmail Khan, Eastern Command Signals, Meerut, Calcutta Jalapahar, Dehra Dhun Digboi, Ledo, Dacca, etc., etc. "I shall be delighted to hear from anyone in the Corps," he says.

Mr. Wakefield is now Resort Horticulturist at the Dorado Beach Hotel, Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico.

The Reverend L. S. Pettifer

The **Reverend L. S. Pettifer** (ex-Major of the Corps) formerly of 14, Gravel Lane, Ringwood, Hants., writes to say that he has been appointed to the parishes of Knight's Enham with Smannell, near Andover. This includes the village of Enham Alamein—a community for disabled people, originally Service people. A point of interest is that the wrought iron gates from the Alamein Club in Cairo are installed there, one on the hostel, one on the factory and one on the offices. They bear the Army, Navy and Air Force crests.

"We will be delighted to see any of our old friends—there is always a cold beer available at the Rectory, Enham Alamein, Andover."

CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN THIS?

A cablewagon (ceased being used before World War II) laying cable alongside a truck with post World War II markings including Southern Command formation sign. This has us baffled here. Any suggestions to Colonel R. M. Adams, R.H.Q. Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, S.W.3

Obituary

LANCE-CORPORAL AND MRS. BOURNE

13th Signal Regiment writes:

It is with deep regret that we announce the deaths of both **Lance-Corporal Reg Bourne,** Royal Signals, and his wife, **Corporal Sue Bourne,** W.R.A.C.

This young and popular couple died tragically within three days of each other, as a result of an accident in their newly-found home near 13th Signal Regiment. Reg joined the Regiment in February, 1968, and Sue, whom he met in the Regiment, in March, 1968.

Prior to joining the Army in November, 1966, Reg, as in his later life, enjoyed sport to the full. His acts of charity were well-known in his home town of Warrington, more especially by the handicapped children of that town. Sue, whose father is now serving with the Royal Welch Fusiliers in Hong Kong, made an ideal and loving wife.

They were buried together, with full military honours, at Rheindahlen Military Cemetery on 10th February.

Our deepest sympathy goes to **Mr.** and **Mrs. Bourne** and **Colour-Sergeant** and **Mrs. Evans** and their families.

BRIGADIER F. S. STRAIGHT, C.B.E., M.C.

Frederick Stanley (Jim) Straight, who died on 13th February, 1970, was born in 1895 and was educated at Stationers' Company School and University College, Reading, where he was a member of the O.T.C. He was commissioned in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1914, serving with that Regiment in France and Macedonia from 1915-1917. He was Regimental Signals Officer and he became an instructor at the 12 Corps Signal School before returning to SSTC in England in 1917. He then served in France with 18th Divisional Signal Company. During the war he was twice Mentioned in Despatches and won the M.C. In 1920 he married Elsie Freeda, daughter of Benjamin Madew, of Hednesford, Staffs.

He transferred to Royal Signals in 1920 and became Adjutant, 2nd Divisional Signals. In 1922 he went to Constantinople (Chanak). Returning to England in 1923 with 2nd Divisional Signals, he remained as Adjutant until 1926, when he was posted to Catterick. He was a wise man and always approachable, and as a result he exerted a strong influence on the young officers, in whom he took the greatest interest.

From 1928 he was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force, whence he was seconded again, to the Posts and Telegraphs Department as telegraph engineer, returning to the School of Signals as an instructor in 1932. After a few months as C.S.O., Northern Command, he was appointed to command 1st Armoured Divisional Signals in 1937. In 1940 he became the first C.S.O., Armoured Formations. On him rested the responsibility for evolving a common doctrine from the limited experience available and for raising the necessary signal organisation. During 1943 he held a variety of C.S.O. appointments, emerging as C.S.O., 8th Army, in Italy in 1944. He was awarded the C.B.E.

In 1945 he became Inspector of Signals, until becoming Commandant, S.T.C., in 1945. His last appointment was Commandant, School of Signals, from 1946-48, when he retired. He joined the Government Communications Headquarters in 1949, remaining with them until 1964, when he retired from government service.

He is survived by his widow and daughters, to whom we offer our deep sympathy.

COLONEL C. S. KIDD, M.B.E.

H.R.F. writes:

His friends will be sorry to read that he died on 18th January at his home in Eire, following bronchitis.

A rather unorthodox officer, but nonetheless competent, he started in the Canadian Action Militia in early 1940 and came to England with one of the first contingents. He had been training with Marconis in Canada and very early came under the notice of **Sir Leslie Phillips** as one of the few with experience of very large wireless sets. He was soon in Middle East concerned with the installation and operation of high speed wireless telegraphy in that theatre. In 1945 he was granted an Emergency Commission in Royal Signals and returned to England. He was seconded to the Telecommunications Division of the Control Commission for Germany and was appointed head of the Radio Section thereof. Immediately on the conclusion of hostilities he set up his headquarters in Hamburg, where he and his part military part civilian staff set to work to re-establish Shore Ship Radio, Direction Finding for Shipping and much else. He had many small adventures; clandestine visits to Siemens in Berlin and the movement thence of much valuable replacement for damaged equipment; his car was once blown up by an explosion connected with the ignition. The administration of his rather unorthodox headquarters was in the capable hands of Junior Commander **P. L. M. Congreve, A.T.S.,** a very experienced Staff Officer (Signals).

In recognition of his services and his potential in peace, he was in 1946 granted a Regular Commission in Royal Signals, his great ambition, and served in Regiments of the Corps in Germany until perhaps 1948. About that time he and **Patricia Congreve** were married from her home in Salisbury. While they were serving in Malta in 1954 his father became very seriously ill and **Charles Kidd** reluctantly had to resign his commission to take over the family farm at Maidenhead, Ballickmoyler, Carlow.

Those who have not kept in touch with them will also be grieved to read that **Patricia,** some years ago, contracted paralysis. This over the years has grown steadily worse. She writes bravely: "I am moving into the cottage which is being adapted for me—I have so many good friends."

Thank God for that!

MR. J. BALMER, B.Sc., M.I.E.R.E.

Mr. John Balmer

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death on Monday, 9th February, of **Mr. John Balmer,** Head of Academic Studies at the School of Signals. He died peacefully at his home in Broadstone, Dorset, after a prolonged illness.

John Balmer graduated in physics and mathematics at Leeds University in 1933, having captained both the University cricket and hockey teams. In the Thirties he lectured at his old school, Wolsingham, Co. Durham. It was during this time that he captained hockey for Scotland and Durham and played regularly for Yorkshire and the North of England. He also played cricket for Bishop Auckland.

At the beginning of the war he served as an experimental officer at the Scientific Research Department of the Ministry of Supply until 1942, when he joined the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He represented the Army and his Corps at hockey until leaving the Service as a Major at the end of the war, when he returned to his old school. He became President of Durham County and the North Hockey Association and President of the Northern Counties Hockey Umpires' Association.

In 1948 he joined the Extra Mural Studies Department of Leeds University and made his first real contact with the Corps,

lecturing at the Services Education Branch at Catterick Camp. From 1954 he lectured regularly at the School of Signals and in 1960 became the School's first senior lecturer. He was a founder member of today's Academic Division at the School and became the Principal Lecturer and Head of Department in April, 1965, a post he held until his death.

It is fortunate for many Royal Signals officers and foremen of signals that he pioneered the close association of the Corps with the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the recognition of the Foreman of Signals course as an exemption for Higher National Certificate. He also established the first contacts with Southampton University after the move of the School to Blandford. All this time he retained his intense interest in sport.

He was captain of the Dinsdale Golf Club whilst **Connie,** his wife, captained the Ladies' Club team. In October, 1964, he officiated as a hockey umpire at the Olympic Games in Tokyo and his services were again called for at the Pan-American Games in Canada in 1967. He umpired many other international matches, notably the international tournaments in Lyons and Leipzig. At this stage he was honoured with the highest award in hockey, the Crown and Badge of the Fédération International de Hockey. In 1968, he umpired hockey at the Olympic Games in Mexico.

Throughout his life **John Balmer** maintained the highest standards in both his academic profession and in sport, but more than this, he was the patient, untiring and admired 'headmaster' to innumerable officers and foremen who were fortunate enough to be his students. The esteem in which he was held and his popularity are well illustrated by the regularity with which officers, warrant officers, and senior N.C.O.s returning to the School made his office their first port of call, and by the warm-hearted, kind and generous welcome that invariably awaited them.

He will be very sadly missed at the School and the Corps has lost a great friend, champion and associate.

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Mrs. Balmer,** their daughter, **June,** and their son, **Keith.**

Memorial Fund

It is the wish of **Mr. Balmer's** widow that those who wish to show their sympathy and appreciation should contribute to Cancer Research.

To meet her wish, it is proposed to open a fund to which individuals can contribute and to send a consolidated donation to Cancer Research when all who wish to do so have had the opportunity to subscribe.

The fund will be administered by the Mess Secretary, Headquarters Mess Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, to whom all donations should be sent. Cheques should be made payable to H.Q. Mess Royal Signals and annotated "John Balmer Memorial Fund."

The subscription list will close on 30th May, 1970.

Movements

Officers

Captain J. H. Almonds	... ...	To 264 Signal Squadron (S.A.S.)
Major M. M. Barker	... ...	,, 12 Signal Group (V)
Captain W. A. Barnes	... ...	,, Cyprus Leave Camp
Captain (Q.M.) Barnes-Murphy	...	,, School
Captain A. W. Bird	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Major M. O. N. Bird	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) F. Brandreth	...	,, 28th Regiment
Captain M. L. P. Brock	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Captain J. F. Byrne	... ...	,, H.Q., Training Brigade
Major E. F. Carrel	... ...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain M. A. Cornforth	... ...	,, School (Cadre)
Major W. G. Cunningham	... ...	,, School (Cadre)
Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre, M.B.E.	... ...	,, R.M.A.S.
A/Major J. W. Fyfe	... ...	,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant C. B. Greig	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Captain J. L. E. Gryspeerdt	... ...	,, 7th Regiment, as Major
Captain (Q.M.) A. G. Harfield, B.E.M.		,, 19th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant A. T. B. Kimber		,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant J. K. C. Maclean	... ...	,, 249 Squadron
Captain R. L. Meek	... ...	,, 32nd Regiment (V)
Major H. A. Morrison	... ...	,, 212 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) J. V. Needham	...	,, 36th Regiment (V)
Captain C. W. Palmer, M.B.E.	...	,, 216 Para Squadron
Major P. G. Rogers	... ...	,, 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Captain R. Sampson	... ...	,, 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Major I. R. D. Shapter	... ...	,, 264 Squadron (SAS), as O.C.
Captain R. W. Stark	... ...	,, School
Major S. G. Walker	... ...	,, H.Q. Fortress, Gibraltar
Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. L. Wickes		,, M.A., Rabat
Major D. C. Woodbridge	... ...	,, 35th Regiment (V) as C.O.
Lieutenant J. C. Young	... ...	,, 2nd Signal Regt. (Australia)

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I (F. of S.) G. J. Wright	... To H.Q., Training Brigade
W.O.II N. E. Ladds	... ,, 260 Squadron
W.O.II D. C. Prescott	... ,, 18th Regiment
A/W.O.II J. L. Burgess	... ,, H.Q., NORTHAG
W.O.II (F. of S.) M. J. Waite	... ,, 8th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) W. A. Little	... ,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. E. Edgington	,, 19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. E. G. Brown	... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Vasper	... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. G. G. Pickard	... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) E. P. Mahoney	,, 633 Troop
Staff Sergeant G. Chambers	... ,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. A. McGregor	... ,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. A. Jones	... ,, 28th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. Hazelgrove	,, 4 Guards Bde. Signal Sqn.
Staff Sergeant J. J. F. Logan	... ,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Abbott	... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant J. McMahon	... ,, 4 Guards Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant R. Gaffney	... ,, H.Q., 1 Signal Group
A/Sergeant M. I. Weston	... ,, 18th Regiment
Sergeant H. E. Hearns	... ,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant W. J. Crumbie	... ,, 222 Squadron
Sergeant L. Jackson	... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant W. Heatley	... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant T. H. Robinson	... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. Sinnett	... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant W. Marsden	... ,, 39th Regiment (V)
Sergeant B. Ellis	... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant J. C. T. Richards	... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant S. Gardiner	... ,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. T. Green	... ,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. R. Acey	... ,, 229 Squadron
Sergeant P. G. Lori	... ,, 2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. F. E. Wickham	... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant C. J. F. Hemstock	... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. F. V. Knight	... ,, 5th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant J. R. McIver	... ,, 24th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn
Sergeant J. C. Watkinson	... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant A. MacDonald	... ,, 32nd Regiment (V)
A/Sergeant A. Adams	... ,, 4 Comm. Unit
A/Sergeant J. A. Cooper	... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Foster	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant A. Harwood	... ,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant W. Lawson	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant J. M. Smith	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant K. Zoing	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant G. R. Anderson	... ,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. E. Guest	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant S. Gair	... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant R. Holmes	... ,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant A. B. Harper	... ,, 10th Regiment
Sergeant R. I. Marsh	... ,, School of Signals (No. 30 F. of S. Course).
Sergeant J. D. Bowman	... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant C. R. Shaw	... ,, 28th Regiment
A/Sergeant R. Turner	... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant M. King	... ,, 222 Squadron
A/Sergeant T. K. Mumford	... ,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant J. L. Sutton	... ,, 14th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Jack	... ,, 260 Squadron
Sergeant P. Walsh	... ,, School of Signals
A/Sergeant A. C. Palmer	... ,, 24 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. L. Clarence	... ,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant D. Smith	... ,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant P. A. White	... ,, 31st Regiment

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.

Have you always wanted to try sailing but have never known how to go about it?

Do you know that the Corps has its own ocean-going craft in Southampton, Poole, Kiel and Singapore? Are you not quite sure that you would like it but would like to find out?

There is no subscription or entrance fee for Regular Corps members.

Contact your regimental sailing officer or the Secretary, Royal Signals Yacht Club, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. N. Lyons, Room 044, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.**

TECHNICIANS PRESENTED WITH CITY AND GUILDS CERTIFICATES

The Mayor of Richmond seated with 13 Class I Technicians who had just received their certificates from him at 8th Signal Regiment

Seated: Corporal Canning, The Mayor, Corporal Philpott

Front row: Corporal Scott, Corporal Moore, Corporal Dudderidge, Corporal Hardy, Corporal Provart, Corporal McDonald

Rear row: Corporal Graham, Corporal Nicholls, Corporal Clarke, Corporal Turner, Corporal Latham

Good news for Corps Technicians

On page 516 of the December, 1969/January, 1970 edition of THE WIRE, **Mr. S. P. Halsey,** the Deputy Chief Instructor, 8th Signal Regiment, outlined the new arrangements under which Technicians attaining Class I in their trade were to be awarded a City and Guilds of London Institute Certificate.

The first course to complete its upgrading course after 1st February was Technician Terminal Equipment 1/31.

On 5th February, His Worship the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor R. Eaton,** accompanied by the Mayoress, honoured the Regiment by presenting certificates to the complete course of thirteen successful students.

Prior to the presentation, the Mayor, in a short address, summarised the history of the Regiment and paid tribute to the fact that this is the first unit in the Services able to award its own certificate which is acceptable in civilian life as proof of achievement whilst in the Corps.

All Technicians who satisfactorily complete Class I Upgrading Course from now on will be given a similar certificate to those awarded on 5th February.

UPGRADING COURSES, CATTERICK, 1970

Serial	*Course*	*Class*	*Assembles*	*Disperses*
1/55	Technician Radio	II-I	14 April	12 Nov.
1/56	Technician Radio	II-I	26 May	23 Dec.
1/37	Technician TE	II-I	21 April	19 Nov.
1/38	Technician TE	II-I	16 June	28 Jan. '71
1/28	Technician RR	II-I	2 June	17 Dec.
2/54	Technician Radio	III-II	23 June	19 Nov.
2/46	Technician TE	III-II	23 June	19 Nov.
2/37	Technician RR	III-II	26 May	8 Oct.
1/53	Telegraph Operator	II-I	19 May	28 Aug.
1/78	Radio Operator	II-I	31 Mar.	12 June
1/45	Comcen Operator	II-I	7 April	3 July
1/46	Comcen Operator	II-I	5 May	31 July
1/27	Electrician Driver	II-I	7 April	12 June
1/28	Electrician Driver	II-I	16 June	21 Aug.
1/51	Lineman	II-I	16 June	29 Oct.
1/26	Radio Relayman	II-I	7 April	21 May
1/34	Cipher Operator	II-I	28 April	19 June
1/35	Cipher Operator	II-I	23 June	14 Aug.
2/61	Telegraph Operator	III-II	19 May	28 Aug.
2/6	Driver, R. Signals	III-II	23 June	14 Aug.
2/54	Electrician Driver	III-II	7 April	29 May
2/55	Electrician Driver	III-II	9 June	31 July
2/23	Clerk Technical	III-II	21 April	19 June
2/31	Comcen Op III-Cipher Op II		30 June	25 Sept.

Make this your resolution for the Seventies . . .

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Hard Training and Determination brought its reward

Ski Report from 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron

☆

Extract from an interview with the Chairman of the B.A.O.R. Ski Association, Major General Cordingley on B.F.B.S.:

"IT is invidious to single out any individual team or unit but I must congratulate one minor unit — 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron — who did extremely well."

7th ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON TEAM DURING TRAINING IN NORWAY
Left to right: Signalman Bernie Madsen, Corporal Malcolm Bassey, Corporal 'Corky' Corcoran, Signalman Doug. Elliott, Lance-Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Signalman Pete Houchen, and kneeling, Captain Dick Smith

Some results worth watching out for

Readers of these pages may well remember that the winter before last, the Editor made an earnest appeal for us to take the sport of ski-ing more seriously in the Corps and to attempt to make our mark in the highly competitive arenas of Divisional and Army Competitions. Last year, this Squadron made a reasonable first year attempt, finishing 17th in the Army Nordic Ski-ing. At the end of our ski report last year we warned you to look out again for us this year, and we think we have provided some results that were worth watching for!

Hard training

The team managed to dry train hard, if a little sporadically, from September until we left for Norway on 25th November. Those going to Norway were: **Captain Dick Smith, Corporal Malcolm Bassey, Lance-Corporal Sean Dillon-White, Signalman Doug Elliot, Signalman Bernie Madsen** and **Signalman Pete Houchen.** We spent five weeks there and skied in the region of one thousand kilometres each, split between distance, interval and tempo training.

Pitted against giants of the ski-ing world

At the beginning of January we were joined by **Corporal 'Corky' Corcoran,** who had trained with the British Team since September, and moved down to the 1st Divisional Ski Championships in Mittenwald, where we were to pit ourselves against such giants in the ski-ing world as 94 Loc Regiment, 39th Missile Regiment, 16/5 Lancers, and 15/19 Hussars. The first race was the 15 km. team and individual in which we gained the following individual places to count: **Corporal Corcoran,** 8th; **Signalman Elliot,** 14th; **Lance-Corporal Dillon-White,** 18th.

This gave the following team results: 1st, 39th Missile Regiment R.A.; 2nd, 94 Loc Regiment R.A.; 3rd, 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; 4th, 16/5 Lancers; 5th, 15/19 Hussars.

The next race was the 4 x 10 km. relay for which the team was (in order of running), **Signalman Elliot, Captain Smith, Lance-Corporal Dillon-White** and **Corporal Cororan.** The team was once again in good form and the placings were: 1st, 39th Missile Regiment; 2nd, 16/5 Lancers; 3rd, 94 Loc Regiment; 4th, 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; 5th, 15/19 Hussars.

In the final race, which counted towards the military combination, the patrol race, we again came 4th, which placed us third overall in the military combination. The final positions of the first three were: 1st, 39th Missile Regiment; 2nd, 16/5 Lancers; 3rd, 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

For a minor unit in its second year of ski-ing, it was agreed this was indeed a very good effort.

During the Divisional meeting, four of the team competed in the Biathlon (combined shooting and ski-ing), and took the following places out of thirty selected competitors: 4th, **Corporal Corcoran;** 7th, **Signalman Elliot;** 10th, **Lance-Corporal Dillon-White;** 11th, **Captain Smith.**

Signalman Elliot wins the Burgermaster's Cup

At the prizegiving, as well as collecting our prizes for finishing 3rd in the 15 km., **Signalman Doug Elliot** was awarded the coveted Burgermaster's Cup, a large and handsome trophy, for being the most promising and improved ski-ier at the meeting. And so, clutching our prizes and cock-a-hoop with our success, we moved on a little apprehensively to Oberjoch and the Army Nordic Ski Championships.

The Army Nordic Ski Championships

Once again, however, we acquitted ourselves well. Unfortunately **Corporal Corcoran,** a member of the British team, was laid low with 'Oberjoch bug' for three days and was ski-ing very much below form, ski-ing in the 4 x 10 km. relay on the day before being sent to bed and leaving his sick

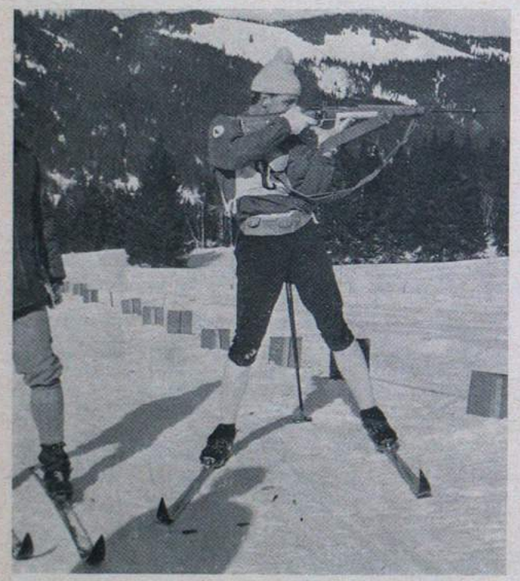
bed to ski in the 15 km. team event. A summary of our results in the military combination events is: 4 x 10 km. relay, 5th; 15 km. team, 10th (individual placings in a field of 218 were: **Signalman Elliot,** 18th; **Lance-Corporal Dillon-White,** 34th; **Corporal Corcoran,** 37th; **Captain Smith,** 42nd); Patrol Race, 3rd.

This placed us fifth in the final Army Military Combination result. Placings were: 1st, 2nd Field Regiment; 2nd, 39th Missile Regiment; 3rd, 16/5 Lancers; 4th 1st Royal 22e Regiment (Canadian); 5th, 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; 6th, 2nd Divisional Regiment R.C.T.

A great effort in the Biathlon Competitions

Apart from the military combination, we also managed to distinguish ourselves in the Biathlon competitions. The first one we competed in was the Biathlon 'A' individual, in which our three Biathlon novices, **Captain Smith, Lance-Corporal Dillon-White** and **Signalman Eliot** took the first three places in that order in a field of 36. This was also the Junior National competition and as a result of **Signalman Doug Elliot** being the first under 21 years old home he now revels under the title of 'National Junior Biathlon Champion' and received a handsome placque at the prizegiving to prove it.

Because of our success in the individual Biathlon 'A,' we were seeded into the Open Biathlon Relay in which we distinguished ourselves by finishing fifth in a field of 13 teams. This race took place during **Corporal Corcoran's** confinement to bed, so we were ski-ing with a considerably weakened team, added to which the team captain, **Captain Dick Smith** failed to check his rifle sights and as a result had to ski seven penalty loops for bad shooting! A tough way to learn an important lesson.



FITNESS AND PRECISION
Lance-Corporal Sean Dillon-White on the range at Oberjach in the open Biathlon relay

An Invitation by the British Team

At the end of the competition, the British Team asked three promising ski-iers to go to Norway for a further month's training under expert coaching, with a view to possibly joining the British Team if suitable. For consistently good performances and showing great promise, two of the team, **Signalman Doug Elliot** and **Lance-Corporal Sean Dillon-White,** were invited to go to Norway with the British Team. Congratulations and good luck to them both! If they are successful, this unit will have provided three members of the British Biathlon team (**Corporal Corcoran** is already a member) in the space of two seasons and will have more soldiers in the team than any other unit in the Army! Until last year a Royal Signaller had never been seen in the British Biathlon Team.

A challenge to major units

So, you see, we have made an impression for our small unit and the Corps in the world of ski-ing. Unfortunately, the team will now split up, its leader, **Captain Smith** being posted to H.Q. FARELF (where people who know assure him there is no snow!) and half of the remainder all going in different directions.

Here is a challenge to major units of the Corps in B.A.O.R. If a unit like ours (250 strong) can produce such results from pure novices, with one exception, in two seasons, surely a determined effort by a major unit over three years should be able to produce army champions. Who will take up the challenge? If anyone wants advice or equipment, training, accommodation, useful contacts, etc., write to Captain R. B. Smith, Royal Signals, H.Q., FARELF, c/o G.P.O., Singapore. He will be glad to supply it.

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Trials Squadron — School of Signals

"ISN'T it about time Trials Squadron featured in the School notes for THE WIRE," said the O.C. "But they're in 30th Regiment, aren't they," said a passing student. "If that's what you think," said the O.C., "it certainly is time Trials Squadron was featured."

They joined the School from 30th Regiment in October, 1967. Their work is the same, however, doing user trials on communications equipment intended for the British Army. They have an additional role, if they have the time, of testing commercial equipment to aid the export drive.

Trials get everyone out and about. To Germany, on one pretext or another has been the Technical Adjutant, **Captain (T.O.T.) Don Capon,** taking a silent generator, and the O.C., **Major George Bell,** brought it back; O.C. Technical Troop, **Major (T.O.T.) Norman Merrifield** and **Y. of S. Nick Forster** with the modified C50. In fact, **Y. of S. Forster** is completing his hat-trick, delivering NRA Boxes this month. Other visits to Greece and Norway have been made—"all in the line of duty"—of course!

During the past year the Squadron has done well on the sporting side; under the leadership of **Captain Gordon Howard** (since departed) they won the School athletics meeting. They have been in the final of the basketball and foootball, and after the first two rugby matches, found that the opposition was unwilling to play. **Sergeant Malcolm Crow, Lance-Corporal Laurie Vula** and **Signalman John Foster** turn out regularly for the School 1st XV. **Major Norman Merrifield, Y. of S. Nick Forster** and **F. of S. Dicky Dyer** (lately gone to the Demonstration Team) seem to do most of the refereeing in the area.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Marriage of Sergeant B. Hulme

[Courtesy: Photopress (Leeds) Ltd.
THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE . . . Sergeant B. Hulme and his bride Miss Mary Tattersall after their marriage at St. Patrick's Church, Leeds

ON 13th December, the marriage took place, at St. Patrick's Church, Leeds, between **Sergeant Brian Hulme** and **Miss Mary Tattersall,** a State Registered Nurse at St. James's Hospital, Leeds.

Sergeant Hulme, presently serving on the staff of the T.O.T., came to the College in September, 1965 — his second tour at Harrogate, his first having been as an apprentice, from 1959 to 1961.

Best man was **Sergeant 'Eddy' Edwards,** until recently an instructor in the College's Technician Wing, and **Sergeant Hulme's** colleagues provided the traditional guard of honour at the church.

After the ceremony a reception was held in the Sergeants' Mess at the College, after which the happy couple left by car for their honeymoon, but not without difficulty, for the car had been well and truly decorated; not least with sufficient toilet rolls to gladden the heart of any football fan. And **Sergeant Hulme** tells us that one can still discern the aroma of the fish which his kindly colleagues set to cook on the engine—presumably as some kind of additional wedding breakfast.

Sergeant and **Mrs. Hulme** were, however, able to spend their honeymoon, and, incidentally Christmas, at Ibiza—of all things, sunbathing.

Some up-and-coming games players . . .

Two members of the College 1st XV were selected to play for the Army (Junior) Rugby XV in a match against R.M.A. Sandhurst, played at Camberley on 28th January; a third was invited, and travelled as reserve.

The two who played were—at blind-side wing forward, **A/T Frank Thomas,** aged 16 a fifth term Technician from Haverfordwest, Captain of the College XV; and at hooker, **A/T Harry Elkan,** aged 16, a third term telegraph operator from Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Unlucky not to get a game, at least this time, was **A/T Lance-Corporal Dermot ('Monty') Gittoes,** aged 17, a fifth term telegraph operator, from Moccas, Herefordshire, who plays for the College at prop forward.

After the game, **A/Ts Thomas** and **Elkan** were invited to represent the Army Junior XV in their next match, against Blackheath Colts on 7th February. The former was, however, denied leave of absence as he was falling behind in his technical training. There is a moral here!

. . . and two who have arrived

We have been pleased to note, from the national press, that ex-Apprentice Technician, now Sergeant, **Ian Cairns** has been figuring regularly and prominently in the Army XV.

So, in the Army Hockey XI, has **Sergeant Alan Coldwell,** who achieved the distinction of playing for the Army while still an apprentice.

And there is a moral here, too!

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

Farewell to the Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Macfarlane has left us to assume the appointment of G.S.O.1 at the Cabinet Office. We wish him and **Helen** all that's best in the future.

Although he himself thought it would seem too much like 'trumpet-blowing' (with the result that it was not submitted for inclusion in the last WIRE), there is no doubt that a better tribute to **Colonel Macfarlane** could not be found than the article, reproduced overleaf.

Colonel Macfarlane and **Helen** were suitably wined and dined in the Officers' Mess Jimmy's Bar, where an all-Bavarian theme produced the desired result.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess 'had the last word' and dined-out the Colonel the following week.

FAREWELL TO THE C.O.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Macfarlane and W.O.I. (R.S.M.) J. G. Turner, at Sergeants' Mess Dining Out 28th January 1970

Welcome to the Commanding Officer

We welcome **Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. Gittins** and his family to Verden, and trust that their tour will be a happy one.

'Dollies' of 1969

The centre pages of *The Union Jack* showed "some of the lovely young ladies who graced the pages of last year's issues." Our candidate was **Mandy Jane Windibank.** Her father is the NAAFI District Manager.

Mandy has since become **Mrs. Enright,** wife of **Lieutenant Chris Enright.** Our congratulations to them both.

WISE GIRL—MARRIED INTO THE CORPS!
Miss Mandy Windibank, now Mrs. Enright, wife of Lieutenant Chris Enright of 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment

Footnote

If other Regiments consider that a gauntlet has been cast by the reproduction of the article from *Union Jack* that follows, then let them be assured that this is not the intent.

But if the gauntlet should be taken up—so much the better!

"Finest Regiment in the Corps"

A report from P.R., H.Q., 1st Division

GLOWING tributes to what he described as "the finest Signal Regiment in the Corps" were made by the G.O.C., 1st Division, **Major-General Allan Taylor, M.C.,** when he attended a farewell parade in his honour on the square of Caithness Barracks, Verden, home of 1st Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

On a snow-covered square, and with temperatures 'well below,' **General Taylor** said it was neither the time of the year nor the right sort of weather to address them out in the open, but he didn't want to leave without some reference to the remarkable achievements of the Regiment.

Speaking of modern-day developments in radio communications which made their job "ten times more complicated than a few years ago," he went on to say that against this sort of background, their achievement has been a formidable one.

"And I speak not only of the Regiment, but of the Headquarters as a whole, with its many branches," he went on. "It is the way that this has gelled that has made me proud to be associated with you all for the two years I have been here."

LAST INSPECTION
Major-General Taylor inspects the Guard of Honour found from 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment on the occasion of his farewell parade

General Taylor concluded with a reference to the Regiment's remarkable sporting record—Divisional champions in athletics, seven-a-side rugby, hockey, badminton and orienteering; Divisional League soccer champions; B.A.O.R. runners-up in judo and potential runners-up in the Divisional cross-country.

"Add to all this the fact that you produced the Divisional catering champions and gained a special B.A.O.R. drama award, and you have what must be a unique Regiment in Rhine Army, if not in the British Army," he said.

The parade consisted of a half guard from the Regiment, and all those not taking part lined the square as a farewell tribute to **General Taylor.** Also paying their own compliment to their G.O.C. were pilots of the Division's Aviation Regiment, who flew past in Sioux helicopters. Music was provided by the Band of the 3rd Royal Green Jackets from Celle.

A ground-level view of the 1st Division Ski Meeting

By Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) G. Fenney, 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment

Mittenwald, Bavaria

THE weather at the start of Exercise White Arrow XIV was marvellous for sunbathing — blue sky, sunshine, and a warm wind. However, these factors were not conducive to good ski-ing. By day the snow on the southern slopes turned to slush, by night it froze to sheet ice.

Despite this the meeting got under way only twenty-four hours late, by which time a new course for the 15km. langlauf had been found. The course stood up well to the 220 competitors, but they did not stand up too well on the course. The wrong type of wax, awful snow, steep climbs, bumpy downhill sections (added to lack of proficiency) occasioned skiers like myself to travel three-quarters of the distance in the horizontal mode.

Nevertheless, most competitors completed the course in less than two hours: my time of 1 hour 51 minutes placed me 163rd.

The first Alpine race should have been the Giant Slalom, but this was replaced by the Open Slalom in the hope that conditions would improve. Two courses of some 35 gates were set up near the Wildenseehütte, on a steep north slope once occupied by a 'Schlepplift.' Lots of 'moguls' were encountered on this slope (for non-skiers these are humps that develop on a

ROLL ON NEXT YEAR—I'LL BE THERE
Staff Sergeant G. Fenney thoroughly enjoyed Exercise White Arrow XIV despite a few falls

smooth sloop due to the zig-zag path of previous skiers) and the virtually solid ice meant that bags of edging was required to get any sort of grip. Even so, for the first leg, the better skiers managed times of a little over 35 seconds. The 'not-so-goods' (include me) took a little over a minute.

The second leg of the Open started in the afternoon, the sun and wind combined to soften the surface to allow easier ski-ing and better times. Although, all but impaling myself on one of the gates, and being disqualified for missing another, I enjoyed the run, the resultant first-aid ministrations, and the sight of the few remaining competitors tumbling down the course.

The following afternoon we assisted in setting up the Giant Slalom course — when I saw the starting slope I nearly had an accident (the type experienced often by young children). I had thought that the Kranzberg was steep until seeing this one. Icy conditions prevailed, and just practising in the morning before the event was hazardous.

The competition produced many thrills and spills throughout. I started 41st of 48 entrants and was most pleased to be considered an entrant standard. Once again I took an early gate with me, breaking a binding in the process. Because of this fall (and several more), I took nearly six minutes to complete the course and achieved 36th place. Good conditions would have greatly assisted an old-timer like myself.

The Downhill was postponed due to lack of snow, then, when snow was found on the Zugspitze, due to lack of visibility — it was snowing too hard!

To finalise I would say that, whatever the conditions, I thoroughly enpoyed the ski-ing and the lovely Bavarian Alpine scenery. Perhaps next year will see a different ending to the tale — there may well be some snow suitable for a ski-meeting.

So roll on Exercise White Arrow 1971 — I'll be there!

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SKIERS FROM 2nd DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT ACQUIT THEMSELVES WELL
Members of "A" Team *left to right* :— Captain Robin Cameron-Cooper, KOSB, ADC, Corporal Dave Alexander, 1 Squadron, Lance-Corporal Pete Harris, 3 Squadron and Signalman Paul Dilworth, 1 Squadron

Ski-ing in 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment

by Corporal Kennedy, Royal Signals

ON 3rd December, 1969, the 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment Ski Team arrived at the Regiment's new ski hut in Wertach, Bavaria. The hut is a gasthaus which has been rented for the next three seasons. The hut is very modern, compared to last year's hut, having hot and cold water, central heating and, most important, a proper bar.

Our training soon started under the guidance of **Captain Robin Cameron-Cooper,** K.O.S.B., and **Corporal Dave Alexander.** Soon, to facilitate the training, we enlisted the help of a local German instructor, **Wolfram,** who continued to teach us the delights of langlauf, although his English was restricted to "Bend the knees," and "sliding immer sliding." About this time, we lost one member of the team, **Signalman Ian Gillett,** who broke his foot during training on a rather hectic downhill stretch.

Teams chosen

Finally the time had come to choose the teams which was done by racing amongst ourselves. The teams were: 'A' team, **Captain Robin Cameron-Cooper, Corporal Dave Alexander, Lance-Corporal Pete Harris** and **Signalman Paul Dilworth,** the reserve was **Lance-Corporal Mick Pawlow.** The 'B' team consisted of **Second-Lieutenant Tony Sugdon, Corporal Eddy Thomas, Corporal Ross Kennedy** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Fox,** reserve being **Lance-Corporal 'Bronco' Logan. Lance-Corporal Bernie Medway** and **Signalman Keith Skinner** went to Oberjoch as track-makers.

Results

The first race of the meeting was the 4 x 10 km. relay, for which the weather decided to turn against us and continued to do so for most of the week.

The second race was the 15 km. individuals which was run again under adverse weather conditions but some fine results were turned in, notably **Lance-Corporal Harris,** who made the fastest novice time in 1 hour 18 minutes.

And so to the big event, the Patrol Race, which is run over about 16 or 17 kms. by the team as a patrol of four. The patrol carries rucksacks and rifles and a team weight of 20 kgs. At about 3 kms. from the finish the team fire at balloons, picking up a penalty time for every balloon missed. This race is the most gruelling of the meeting. The final results of the team in the Divisional Meeting were Langlauf 3rd in 4 x 10 km. relay, 2nd in Patrol Race and 5th in 15 km. individual. Overall they were the Second Military Combination. In the individuals **Lance-Corporal Harris** (3 Squadron), was the fastest novice and **Signalman Dilworth** (1 Squadron), the second fastest novice. The results in the Downhill were: 6th in Grand Slalom, 6th in Special Slalom and 6th in the Downhill.

B.A.O.R. Champions

With the races and prizegiving over, the 'A' team prepared to go on to the B.A.O.R. events, while the 'B' team returned to Bünde, vowing to return next year. The 'A' team results in the B.A.O.R. (Army) meeting were 10th in 4 x 10 km. Langlauf, 10th in 15 km. Langlauf and 8th in the Patrol Race. **Lance-Corporal Alexander** was 14th in the 15 km. individual.

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

THE Regiment has had a busy month, to say the least. Everything seems to have been happening at once, and everyone has put in a lot of hard work. The storm has broken (see notes in November issue).

C.S.O. STRATCO study period, 15th/16th January

We had the unenviable task of administering the study period, as well as partaking in and supplying some of the demonstrations. However, in spite of all the problems, everything seemed to go smoothly. It was not without a few mistakes, though; the most memorable of which was when some over-enthusiastic dismantlers almost 'unplugged' and 'jacked-up' **Y. of S. Bob Massey,** who was sitting in his auto cabin in the middle of the final demonstration. **Major Weiner** was quick off the mark though, and averted a disaster in the nick of time.

F.F.R.

At the time of writing these notes, the inspecting officer, **Brigadier R. M. F. Redgrave, M.C.,** is still trotting round the Regiment. Although everything seems to be well, one cannot forecast the results. However, judging by the amount of furious preparation we have gone through, all should be well. (Hebrews 11 v. 1 Faith is . . . . the substance of things hoped for)!

Exercises

This month sees the start of the exercise period. We will be exercising in our new NATO role, and the numerous exercises which are lined up at the moment should provide some interesting problems for us to tackle. Many visits to Germany are envisaged, the first of which is in March, on Exercise 'Tallons High.'

(*Continued on page* 105)

(*Continued from page* 104)

Sport

Still no great successes to report, I'm afraid, but we'll keep trying to bring in a few cups this year (even if we have to pinch them).

A new decade has begun and, as you can see, it has started with a bang (or perhaps 'crash' would be a better word) as far as we are concerned. To give you some idea of what life is like here, we close with a newcomer's view of the Regiment, by **Lance-Corporal Bob Hutchinson.**

P.S.—The C.O. has just returned from seeing the Brigadier off and he is still smiling!

A newcomer's view of the Regiment

By Lance-Corporal R. Hutchinson

After spending 1½ years living 'at home' in a T.A. Squadron, one can imagine my reaction on arriving at Carter Barracks, Bulford Camp. I spent the first week in Tidworth Hospital recovering from the shock (actually, I had Mao 'flu and I'm still looking for anyone with a 'little red book.').

Before being carted off to hospital, I received the kind of greeting which I had always thought was reserved for those of more importance. I found myself shaking hands all round and being told by the Chief Clerk that I was very welcome. The reason for this soon became obvious. There was (and still is) a shortage of clerks, and the word had got round that I was one of those nuts who actually enjoyed working! (Don't tell the Chief Clerk, but that's a lie).

At the time of my arrival, the Regiment was in the middle of administering a STRATCO Study Period; a long and unrewarding job which brought problem after problem. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that everyone in the R.H.Q. managed to maintain a good sense of humour, which made working late bearable.

After going through the usual admin 'sausage machine,' I presented myself to 3 Squadron S.Q.M.S., who promptly kitted me out with a full set of 58 pattern webbing. Not being a genius, it took me three hours that evening to discover how the accursed stuff fitted together. I have never seen so many straps, buckles and hooks in my life.

One of the first calls I had to make was to the home of an old friend from Germany, **Corporal Tim Oyedepo,** a Nigerian, who was featured in THE WIRE in 1967, when he went home to Nigeria and joined the ranks of hen-pecked husbands. It was then that I found how badly Carter Barracks is situated. The walk involved negotiating a very muddy track, which is the only quick link with Bulford Camp itself, unless one is affluent enough to own a 'banger.'

My next port of call was the Garrison C. of E. Church. There I made the mistake of mentioning that I had been a choir member in Germany. I now find myself with the unenviable job of 'choirmaster,' and I spend Friday evenings waving my arms about and 'rending my garment' to impress upon the tenors that they would help by singing in tune.

There always seems to be something going on here. At the moment we are in the middle of reorganisation from U.N. role to NATO role, plus preparations for the annual Fitness for Role Inspection, as well as preparing the ground for several exercises in which we are involved. I find myself retiring to my little room at night in a state of utter confusion—a state of mind which very often lasts until the following day. (It is nice to know, though, that everyone else seems to be confused as well).

This is undoubtedly the hardest-working unit I have had the (misfortune?) to serve with, but, in spite of this, it is a changed to be employed as a soldier as well as a clerk, and I look forward to three very interesting and, I hope, rewarding years with 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

P.S.—I have just discovered that the Adjutant has a copy of that 'little red book.' Oh well, you can't win 'em all!

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?

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

Mixed bag

JANUARY has come and gone. No leaves to sweep up, no formal visits to prepare for, just a little snow to clear and an abundance of training. For most, the month has passed very quickly, the festive season seeming an age ago.

Sergeant Homewood's latest MPC I Course was, indeed, a good one. A remarkable spirit developed right from the start, some, incidentally, brushed off on to **Sergeant Homewood** at the end-of-course party! Competition was fierce, in a healthy sort of way, and **Corporal Cowling** emerged as top of the class, so he commanded the pass-off parade.

A very valuable and well-run convention, covering R.A. VHF communications, was organised by **Major Hunt** and 2 Squadron personnel. All ranks involved in R.A. radio communications were invited, and the discussions were lively, forthright and bore a lot of fruit. As a result of this, a further convention has been arranged, to be attended by Gunner Regimental C.O.s, Battery Commanders and Adjutants. Later editions of THE WIRE will indicate whether more has been bitten than can be chewed!

Skiers return

SOSTU since 1st December, the ski team has returned looking fit and well, following their rigorous time in the Tyrol. **Captain Martin Lance** and **Lieutenant Lee Tilson** led the team, which had many changes from last year's representatives.

It was relatively easy training enthusiastic beginners to langlauf, but to convert confirmed downhillers was the biggest problem. **Lance-Corporal Sam Newman** and **Signalman 'Ginge' Greenacre** provided a valuable foundation on which to build the team and, what is perhaps just as important, they knew all the aprés ski haunts.

The team was fortunate in acquiring the services of a local expert, **Segfried Hornstein,** for three mornings a week during training.

Corporal Henry Hunt, a beginner, was very quick to master the techniques and soon became the fastest langlaufer in the team. The downhillers continued to be the slowest over the training courses, with **Lieutenant Tilson** 'chasing' stragglers.

The team entered all the cross-country events in the Divisional meeting. A final placing of 11th out of 31 teams in the Military Combination was considered a very creditable performance. Fewer beginners should require training next year as, in adidtion to those mentioned, **Corporal Jim Slade** and **Signalman 'Barny' Barnard** did well in the Novice 10-kilometre race and should still be in the Regiment.

Corporal John Steer had a fright at the start of the giant slalom, having been cadjoled into standing on 'downhill planks' to make up the team.

No 'pots,' but a rewarding overall performance, and it was decided that **Captain Lance** and **Corporal Hunt** should go to the Army meeting as individuals.

Squash

The team had an easier passage in their cup match against 3 Queens than had been anticipated. **Lance-Corporal Hutton** was the most impressive winner on the scorecard. **Majors Gotts, Hartnett** and **Hutchinson** also won, to produce a 4—1 victory. **Major Dewar** was just toppled by another Army player who was on exceptionally good form that evening.

In tuning up for the next round against 4th/7th Dragoon Guards, the team lost 2—3 to R.A.F. Gutersloh.

It is really very pleasing to see a large number of soldiers playing the game and, in some cases, improving rapidly. The squash players will undoubtely miss **Major Dewar** next season, who, apart from being a good player, seems to be a natural coach. He has, without doubt, contributed a great deal to the improved all-round standards.

Football

The rugby players have had a long, enforced rest, through weather, but short of a violent change, get under way again as these notes go to press.

The soccer boys have been a little more fortunate, but even their activities have been somewhat curtailed, although a five-a-side variety, in the gym, has been a popular pastime.

With no more cup interests, the area league keeps the competition spirit going.

A useful 10—3 victory over 3 Queens has given the 1st XI a comfortable third place in the league. **Corporals Andrews** and **Askew** and **Lance-Corporals McCran** and **Watson** were chiefly responsible for this good score.

Major Stork trains a local German side, and some of the Regiment's stars have joined the club and are drawing on the benefit of evening training under floodlights.

The Herford Inter-Squadron League continues to thrive and it is pleasing to see 3 Squadron at the top of the table at present. It won't be easy to stay there, with 1 Squadron and Squadrons of 'The Skins' and 7th Signal Regiment striving for the honours.

A great gathering

Indeed it was . . . the evening when the members of the Sergeants' Mess and their ladies were invited to the Officers' Mess for cocktails; some 410 heads were assembled in the officers' dining room. There had, of course, been some fears as to how, or if, the Mess could cope with this number. The proof of the pudding, so to speak, was in the eating and drinking. The outcome: an Officers' Mess with no brandy! That apart, it was an excellent evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all. How **R.S.M. Hill** so cleverly winkled all his members out of the Mess was a feat in itself.

1970—under way

Although kinder weather could have prevailed, January has been a full month of work and play. It has passed quickly, perhaps a little too quickly for THE WIRE notes writer!

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

Five men and a bottle of Drambuie

THE New Year was 'seen in' with traditional celebrations in the various messes, and, to the delight of some (and horror of others) **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Wise** had persuaded the Gordon Highlanders to send two pipers and a drummer along. The three bandsmen, together with **S.S.M. Wise** and **Sergeant Jarrett,** kilted and be-sporraned, appeared in the Officers' Mess soon after midnight and entertained the members for an hour. Which clan the S.S.M. belongs to is a mystery, as also is the speed at which five men can get rid of a bottle of Drumbuie!

For those readers languishing in the sunshine of the Near and Far East, thinking nostalgically of European winters and snow, you can have our weather with pleasure. Snow, sleet and ice is the order of the day, and although it makes the task of area cleaning very simple, the crunch will come when the thaw uncovers all the paper and cigarette packets now covered by the snow.

High Rugby hopes

Our sporting calendar has also been adversely affected by weather conditions, and no games of any importance have been played. The rugby team is 'champing at the bit,' wanting match practice before their big game on 25th February at Bad Lippspringe in the final of the B.A.O.R. Cup against the Royal Regiment of Wales. We have high hopes for this game and will gave a full report on it in next month's WIRE.

We had our first exercise of the year from 20th-23rd January, and began to shake out the cobwebs which had gathered over the Christmas season. Temperatures of −10°C. were the order of the day, but there is no truth in the stories told by 1 and 2 Squadrons that Yeti's were seen on the hill-tops—they were, in fact, line parties covered in snow.

Egg and detergent sandwiches

There is, however, truth in the statement that we have some of the cleanest drivers in the Corps. During the exercise **Sergeant Jinks** decided to surprise some of the drivers on their return from a POL re-supply run and made some egg 'banjos' for them. The food, together with a hot cup of tea, was well received until **Sergeant Jinks** tasted his own sandwich and realised he had made a bloomer. He had inadvertently used washing-up liquid instead of cooking oil to fry the eggs. It will be many weeks before he lives this down.

Exercise 'Snow Queen'

For some people, the arrival of the snow was an eagerly-awaited event. This year the Regiment is running an exercise, 'Snow Queen' in Bavaria, organised by **Lieutenant Niall McDonald** and **Sergeant Mike Lowe,** which started in December, and at the end of January, some 80 soldiers of the Regiment have enjoyed two weeks ski-ing in the Bavarian Alps. A German instructor has been employed full time to assist **Sergeant Chapman** with instruction of course personnel.

In January, a team of five went from Exercise 'Snow Queen' to Lermoos for the 4th Division Ski Meeting. Although our team results were not too good, at least we showed our face and gained valuable racing experience.

Exercise 'Snow Queen' continues until mid-March, by which time we hope some 160 members of the Regiment will have gained ski-ing experience.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?
Lance-Corporal Harry Mowat negotiating part of the section through the woods in the 15km. race at Lermoos

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Major C. J. A. Chapman	2	2	0
Colonel J. F. Longfield, M.A., F.I.E.E.	1	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. N. Solly	2	0	0
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Colonel F. S. Morgan	1	5	0
Captain I. C. Double, Royal Signals		15	0
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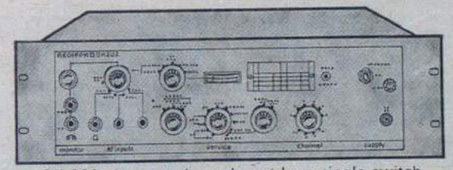

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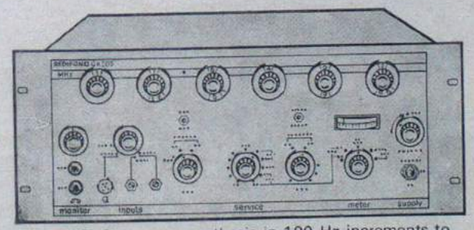

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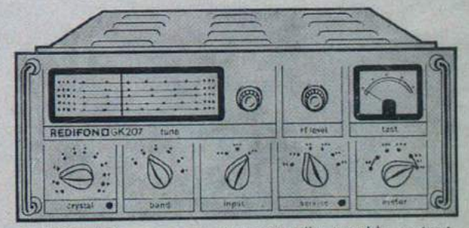

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Visits

HIS Worship the Mayor of Richmond and the Mayoress visited the Regiment on Friday, 5th February.

The visit coincided with the presentations (see page 97) and included a visit to the Sergeants' Mess and lunch in the Officers' Mess.

In the afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass** and **Mrs. Akass,** visited training facilities in the Regiment.

Vale

We have recently said goodbye to two of our Supervising Instructors, **Roy Arnold** to the Army Apprentices' College, Arborfield, and **Jim Simpson** to the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. We congratulate them both on their promotions to Supervisory Instructors, Grade A, and wish them all the best in their new appointments.

They will be remembered by a large number of technicians for their untiring efforts in the organisation of training, as tutors and instructors.

SPORTS

The various sports teams in the Regiment have already met with a considerable amount of success this season.

Hockey

The team has qualified for the Northern Command final of the Army Cup.

To reach this stage, the team has had close victories over both 1 Royal Irish Rangers (1—0) and 2nd Field Regiment, R.A. (2—1). In the District League the team has won nine and drawn one of their fixtures.

Rugby Football

To date the record is particularly impressive.

The one blot being the only defeat, against a Services' side in the third round of the Army Cup by 1st Cheshire Regiment by 8—9. The team are now in the semi-final of the Command Cup.

One newcomer who has really made a name for himself is **Signalman M. Wilson,** a forward, who has played for both the Army and the Corps.

Soccer

The season saw our early elimination from the Army Cup at the hands of 1st R.R.F. in an away fixture at Kirton Lindsay by 1—2.

In the Command Cup, the team has reached the semi-finals, having, in the only match played, beaten 1st Royal Irish Rangers 6—2.

The regular movements of units in Catterick District have resulted in something of a 'stop-go' season. The loss of **Sergeant Andy Russell** and **Corporal Geoff Nelson** will be felt by the team.

Cross-country running

The team, having won the Northern Command Championships, is now due to compete in the Army Championships on 20th February, where they look forward to meeting rivals in 21st Signal Regiment.

9th Signal Regiment (Radio) B.F.P.O. 53

Ski-ing—Cyprus style

AS you possibly already know, for a couple of months every year there is snow on the top of Mount Olympus, so the Command runs a Ski School for the Services out here. It was a bit of a problem this time for the snows came very late.

Two days before the first course was due to begin we received a signal instructing all personnel going on the course to bring football boots. So the Ski-ing Officer passed on this instruction to the people concerned: "I'd rather play cricket," said one, "can I take my bat?"

'Flu epidemic

When the 'flu epidemic hit us our Medical Centre managed to get a small supply of 'flu vaccine, so 'key people' like our Second-in-Command, **Major Ultan Ryan** and Adjutant, **Captain Hugh Bonaker** were jabbed. You can guess who were first people down with 'flu — the Second-in-Command and the Adjutant. "Ah," said the S.M.O., "that's because it was the 1969 vaccine and what you've got is a 1970 'flu." So a couple of weeks later, we got a supply of 1970 vaccine, and 'secondary key people' were jabbed. You can guess who were the next to go down with 'flu — the M.O. and the Security Officer. We wait to hear the S.M.O.'s explanation, but at the moment we cannot — he's got 'flu.

Visit of the Navy

Famagusta suddenly seemed to be bursting at the seams with dark blue jobs — the Darmouth Training Squadron's flotilla sailed into Famagusta on 30th January and stayed until 2nd February. Being just down the road from the port we acted as hosts. All sorts of games were played, and plenty of social functions were held in the Harewood Club and the Sergeants' Mess. A highlight was **Corporal Dave Kelly,** our assistant P.T.I., who was determined that we would win the weightlifting. However, the competition wasn't finished because **Dave** was taken off to the B.M.H. with a slipped disc.

New recruit

Stephen Fugill, son of **W.O.II. Bert Fugill** (S.S.M. of 1st Squadron) signed his attestation papers here in the Adjutant's Office on Tuesday, 13th January, 1970. **Stephen** seemed fated to join up while here at 9th Signal Regiment, for he was born here during his father's last tour in Cyprus from 1949-52. Soon to join 11th Signal Regiment, **Stephen** hopes to train as an operator and naturally follow in his father's footsteps. We wish him all the best of luck.

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS
Stephen Fugill and his father W.O.II. (S.S.M.) A. B. Fugill photographed after Stephen had signed his attestation papers

The WIRE
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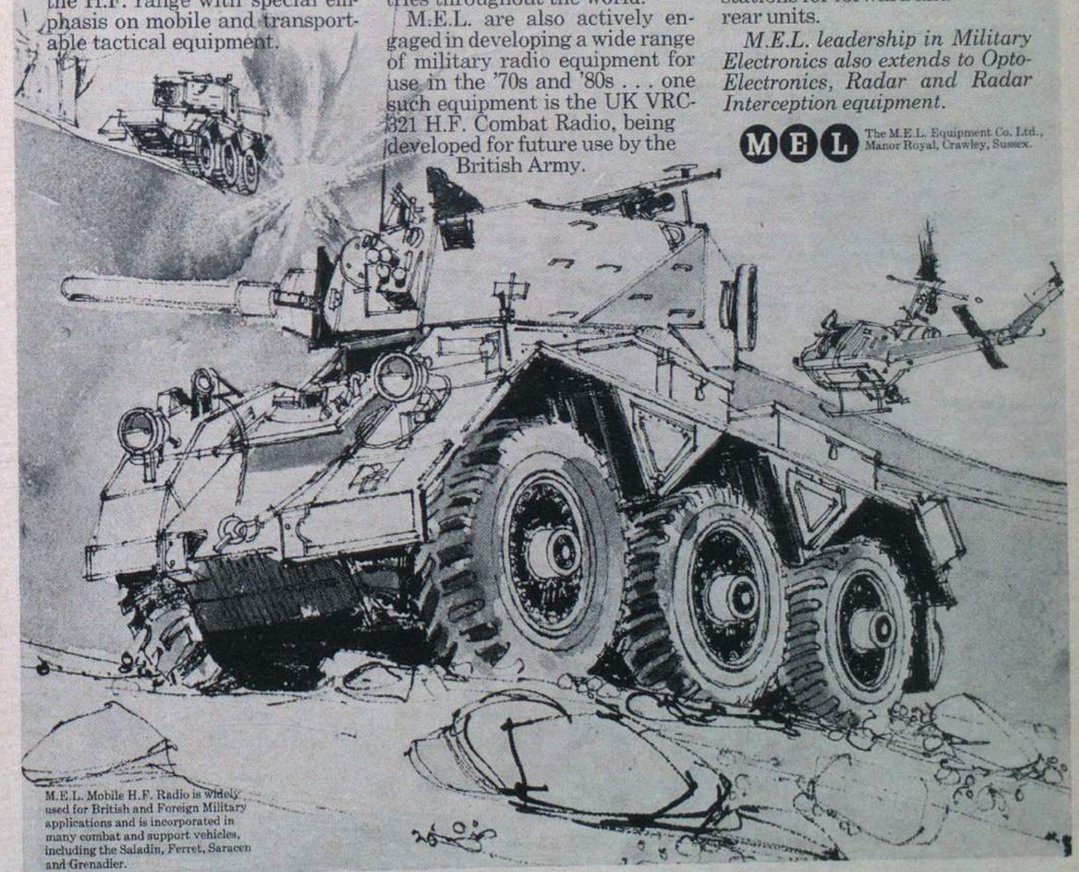

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11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

Signalman A. Wood

Signalman W. Pirie

Signalman J. McQuarrie

LIEUTENANT Colonel **E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.,** took the salute at the Pass-off parade of 7 and 8 Troops on 9th January, 1970. **Signalman A. Wood** was the best recruit for 7 Troop and should prove to be an asset to his future unit's soccer teams, having played for an amateur club before joining the Army. **Signalman W. Pirie,** of 8 Troop, was elected his Troop's best recruit. He is a medal winner in boxing and intends to pursue this sport.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass took the salute at the pass-off parade of 4 Troop on 23rd January, **Signalman J. McQuarrie** was the best recruit of his intake. He was a bricklayer before joining the Army and is now training as a radio operator.

Pass-off parade lunches

Parents of the recruits passing-off are invited to stay and have lunch in the Regiment. **Captain D. J. Daniell,** A.C.C., produces on each occasion a superb lunch which includes a cold table par-exellence. The display of food is so impressive that parents are reluctant to disturb it by sampling any of it;

Cold table on Pass Off Parade lunch

it is believed our greatest problem is dispelling the popular belief of our guests that the first parent to ask for any of the food displayed is liable to a term of imprisonment "not exceeding two years." The photograph illustrates our point.

MEETING PARENTS AND FRIENDS
Lieutenant-Colonel J. Akass who took the Pass Off parade on 23rd January has a word with relatives of one of the recruits

The Mountain Leadership Certificate

We in the Army have become accustomed to treating Adventure Training as part of our life as soldiers, and have always been quite happy to pull a pack onto our back and gallop off into the hills and mountains of whatever country we happen to be in, secure in the knowelge that, as trained soldiers, we know enough to keep ourselves out of trouble.

Unfortunately, good intentions sometimes lead to disaster, as the death of three soldiers in British mountains in 1967 alone will testify. The Defence Council, worried by the adverse publicity and lack of knowledge shown by these, and other mountain epics, less severe but not less well reported in the press, has ruled that from March, 1971, no officer or soldier will be allowed to take groups on adventure training in the hills unless he is in possession of the British Mountain Leadership Certificate.

This certificate, a feature of civilian fell walking for some years, requires the possessor to have a sound knowledge of such basic arts as navigation, mountain rescue, first aid, camp craft and meteorology. For most people an initial weeks basic course at an approved training centre is required, followed by a year's experience of leading parties in the hills, and recording expeditions undertaken in a log book. This, together with successfully completing an assessment course at the training centre results in the issuing of the M.L.C.

At the moment all testing for the Army is done by the busy Adventure Training Wing of the Army Outward Bound School at Towyn, who are running basic courses for up to twenty students nearly every week. These basic courses, listed regularly in local Command Orders, are well worth attending, for although prior experience, such as that given on the three week A.O.B.S. course is helpful, the beginner is also catered for. As long as one has strong legs and back, a head for heights and a fair knowledge of map reading, then the instruction given in up to date mountaineering technique is invaluable. Crammed into a week are such diverse subjects as river crossings, rock climbing, weather forecasting, and no less than three days out on the mountains of Snowdonia.

So if you are the adventurous outdoor sort, but have never heard of a Karabiner Brake, cannot make a Piggot stretcher or recognise Hypothemia when you see it, then, before you go off into the hills again, start studying for your M.L.C.

Rugby

The Regimental XVs run of four matches unbeaten came to a halt by being beaten by 8th Signal Regiment 27-0 and by Wensleydale 13-3. We then travelled to Blaydon to play a much stronger Winlaton Vulcans side and drew 3-3. In this match, despite almost a foot of mud, the forwards and three-quarters combined extremely well and should have won with ease.

Our quarter-final match in the Northern Command Cup against 7th Field Squadron was an absolute disaster. During the first-half we held and indeed, outplayed our opponents, but for all our efforts we could only score three points. In the second-half it was very even for the first 15 minutes and then we gave away 10 points in four minutes, finally going down 16 points to three. Many lessons have yet to be learnt before regular success can be enjoyed by the Rugby fraternity.

Marriages

We wish every happiness to **Corporal R. Hails** and his bride of two weeks, **Mary,** and also to **Corporal B. Smith** and his wife, **Shiela.**

Arrivals

We welcome to the Regiment, **Major J. R. E. Cross,** now O.C. I Wing; **Captain J. Crich,** who is now Second-in-Command 1 Squadron, and **Lieutenant T. G. B. Fish,** now a Troop Commander. We also welcome **Lance-Corporal's Hucker, Baxter** and **Hamson** to 1 Squadron.

Departures

We say farewell to **Lieutenant V. J. Reed,** who has gone, via Blandford, to 21st Signal Regiment, and also to **Lieutenant C. J. Grant,** who is now at 30th Signal Regiment. We also say farewell to **Major R. O. Wilson** and wish him a speedy recovery to full fitness.

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

Annual fitness for role inspection

THE annual 'Fitness for Role' inspection was carried out on the 9th of January by the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O.**

We knew beforehand of the Commander's reputation as a 'soldiers' soldier' and we knew this was to be no formal 'walk round.'

Despite atrocious road conditions, the Commander duly arrived at 10.25 hours, to be met at the entrance to the camp by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Baldwin,** the Adjutant, **Captain Tony Seward,** and the R.S.M., **W.O.I Eric Filder.** The Commander inspected the quarter guard and then, after a short break, set out on a tour of the camp.

Undeterred by the extremely dangerous 'black ice,' that covered every road and path, the Commander insisted on seeing everything, and showed a keen interest in the camp amenities and sympathy for our problems. This part of the inspection was enlivened by an attempt by the Brigadier's A.D.C. to burn down the Junior Ranks' Dining Hall, which was thwarted by the Regimental Fire Party, despite the interventions of the nuclear, biological and chemical party investigating the 'funny smell' the Commander insisted was there.

Before lunch, **Brigadier Crook** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **W.O.I Peter Collins. W.O.II Thomas Remfrey, Staff Sergeant Tony Orrell,** and **Sergeant Stirling Wight** (Royal Canadian Signals), on a parade of all Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Regiment. Afterwards the Brigadier joined the members of the Sergeants' Mess for a drink in their newly-renovated 'home.'

An enjoyable lunch at the Officers' Mess was followed by a tour of the operations building, where the Commander was briefed in our task by the Commanding Officer and Operational Staff.

During this period the Regiment successfully practised its 'Quick Train' procedure under the malevolent eye of Command Group. The only person in difficulty was a certain corporal—who shall be nameless—who tried hard to be in three places at once and, by dint of some very slick costume-changes, succeeded.

Prior to his departure, **Brigadier Cook** spoke to all ranks of the Regiment, and an appreciative audience heard a shrewd and pithy survey of future problems facing the Service, and some welcome words of advice.

The Commander left for his headquarters at 16.30 hours, leaving behind him a very strong liking for his warm personality and taking with him (we hope!) a favourable impression of our Regiment.

Ski training

As we hoped, our ski training venture in Bavaria has proved very successful. Our ski instructor, **Lieutenant Colin Riley,** has a very full life. He has now met five courses at Rosenheim, trained them for seven days on the slopes at Bayrischyell and then delivered them to Rosenheim for their return trip. Rumour had it that he was worn out and in need of a rest, so out of the kindness of our hearts, he was 'approached'—this was met by a horrified stony silence; any risk of losing this 'plum, but tough job' must be resisted!

We get a very full report each week. Of the 20 soldiers that have completed a course, we find some of them are very good, others find it rather more difficult, and only one, **Signalman Robert Moore,** has discovered a quick and 'painless' way to break an ankle.

We look forward with interest to hear more from **Lieutenant Colin Riley** as a result of the eight courses planned between now and 3rd April.

Junior Ranks' Club

At last our Junior Ranks' Club has been opened after a fairly long modification programme. On 31st January it was officially opened by the Commanding Officer. The joy on these ocasions is that there is free beer all round; alas, only one barrel.

Anglo-German Club

It is now carnival time, and our local German friends have the right idea—"get it out of your system before Lent." Some 30 members of the Regiment attended the local carnival ball in Wassenberg on 24th January. Our guide lines were simple, we were to wear anything as long as it was 'fancy.' Amongst our 30 members, soon lost amongst the magnificently-attired Germans, there were Hungarians and Austrians in national dress, a witch a gypsy, a Missippi gambler, an 'eastern gentleman' and many more.

An extremely nice international flavour was introduced. Representatives from 14 different countries were ceremoniously presented with the Wassenberg Carnival Medal and asked to say a few words in their own tongue. We had no difficulty with the English, Canadian and Scottish representatives, but what did the Finnish, the Turkish and Spanish representatives say?

On 5th February, we entertained approximately a hundred children from the local German schools. They arrived at 14.00 hours, saw a number of cartoons in our Globe Cinema and were then entertained to tea, followed by party games. Our Anglo-German Club Officer, **Captain Tony Strachan** (Intelligence Corps), assisted by **Staff Sergeant James Goodridge** and **Corporal John Cole,** provided all the children, including 30 from our Birgelen Primary School, with a most enjoyable afternoon.

Sports bulletin

Our many sporting activities continue and, as usual, there is never enough time or space to cover all aspects. A few remarks, however, are worthwhile.

Basketball

We have won! Our team, guided by **Captain Jerry Purvis** (Intelligence Corps) and **Staff Sergeant David Maunder** (our skipper) have forged their way into winning the Rhine Area Championships. A well-deserved win, if only because of their hard work and determination, to say nothing of their ability.

We now face the next obstacle, the B.A.O.R. Major Units Championships, to be held at Osnabruck shortly. Good luck, chaps! You deserve to win. Our team in the Rhine Area Championships was: **Master Warrant Officer Frank Martin, Staff Sergeant David Maunder, Sergeant Instructor Peter Scales, Corporal Michael Crane, Corporal David Wiseman, Lance-Corporal Hugh Neilson, Lance-Corporal Alan Kibble, Signalman Tony Bird, Signalman Michael Crosby, Signalman Colin Gibson.**

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14th Signal Regiment, Worcester

The Rise and fall of the Droitwich Empire

By Second-Lieutenant Robin Richardson, last Commander of DCN Troop

FOR those in the Royal Corps of Signals who have not had the privilege of serving with COMCAN, or DCN, as it is now, perhaps I should explain Droitwich.

Droitwich Spa is a town on the A.38 (which, incidentally, is a Roman Road) between Worcester and Bromsgrove. On the outskirts of Droitwich Spa is Witton Camp. Housed in the camp is the Transmitter Station for the Defence Communication Network (Army). The DCN Transmitter Station passed all the traffic outgoing from the U.K. to such places as Cyprus, B.A.O.R., Malta, Singapore, and many others. The longest transmission leg was some 12,000 miles to Melbourne, Australia. This Transmitter Station has now ceased to perform its task, a task which began in 1942.

The title to this article I chose because the history of Droitwich reminded me of the 'Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire.' When the station first opened in 1942, it was manned by 'C' Troop of 2 Squadron, War Office Signal Regiment. This Troop was then expanded into Nos. 1 and 2 Signal Regiments. The station was part of the Army Wireless Chain.

In 1947 one of the memorable incidents in the history of the station took place. The trials on SSB ccts began. An SSB cct was established between Droitwich and Fayid in Egypt. The cct was given the number JCJC3, and the equipment that then made these trials possible was a modified SWB 11E. By using VF keying they were able to transmit more than one message at a single time over one transmitter. This was indeed a breakthrough and there was much excitement over this new development in long-distance HF communications. Instead of sending a test tape to establish communications, they would open up every morning playing music. Some claim that this was the first seed sown which led the way to 'Two-Way Family Favourites'!

The amalgamation of 1 and 2 Signal Regiments led to the formation of 14th Signal Regiment at Gloucester, which is also a very interesting story, the telling of which I will leave to the 'story tellers.' On the formation of 14th Signal Regiment, the Army Wireless Chain became the well-known COMCAN. Droitwich Station was given the title of 2 Squadron. COMCAN was then changed to DCN, and shortly afterwards 2 Squadron, Droitwich became DCN Troop.

I am told by the technically-minded that soon after the formation, the station could boast of a total of 16 transmitters. There were ten American equipments (their influence was great, even then), being RCA 4750s and six British equipments, SWB 11Es. Both had an output of about 7½ kw. Shortly after replacement of the RCA ET 4750s, the SWB 11Es fell under the axe of redevelopment and the station was fully equipped with E10s. For the last 20 years eight E10s and one E11 have served the station with very little trouble and the minimum of maintenance.

The transmitters were closed down for the last time on 19th December, 1969, and the atmosphere in the station was that of a lost identity. The technicians, without their E10s, were like sailors without their boats. I came across a small notice stuck on the door of one of the transmitters. It read: "Wanted, good home for this E10; no rust; good runner."

The transmitters are now being dismantled, or I should be more accurate if I said they are being torn to pieces by **Major Phil Mootham** and his 'executioners' of Projects Troop. Every day we see the contents of the E10s being piled in heaps on the centre of the floor, and soon only the skeletons will remain. Then, when the 'butchers' have finished, the 'surgeon' will move in with his small black bag of oxy-acetylene equipment, issue a death certificate, then cut the skeletons into easy-to handle pieces.

1 Squadron, 'B' Troop

By W.O.I (F. of S.) Bob Jarratt

Demonstrations being the order of the day, 'B' Troop, still with traces of Irish brogue, carried off their equipment yet again. This time it was to Bulford, to take part in the C.S.O.'s Study Period in mid-January. The move to Bulford was combined (need I say it?) with a 'Fastball,' which, for the uninitiated, is a smart move of a complete D13 detachment to ATC, Devizes, all ready, not only for an air move, but also for a live communications exercise as well.

As ever, the keen-eyed Movements Control Staff at Devizes were able to pick a few small holes in our airportability readiness state, so that we were not completely complacent as we moved on to the welcoming drizzle of Carter Barracks. There, many acquaintances met in Northern Ireland, greeted us from the ranks of 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

The study period over, we scurried back to Worcester and managed a weekend off before loading once again for a move to Blandford. This time is was to join the Staff College demonstration at the School of Signals. Those familiar with demonstrations will know how wide a variety of pertinent and penetrating questions are put to the exhibitors—perhaps we may offer one from our latest stock, concerning a Staff College student and an anonymous corporal from the Troop:

Officer: "How far does this set go, Corporal?"

Corporal (with ill-concealed smirk): "As far as I care to take it sir."

Meanwhile, our second detachment is on its way to board ship en route to Tobruk, where, under **Captain T. T. Hallchurch**, it will provide communications during the withdrawal from Libya. No doubt a contribution from the desert will appear in due course.

Acceptance of the Army's second Ground Satellite Station

By Captain Peter Brunton, O.C. 'T' Troop

On 29th December last, **Major John Newman**, my Squadron Commander, called me into his office and told me that M-TWO, the Army's second TSC 500, was about to undergo acceptance trials of the servo system. The trials were to take a fortnight and included in them were to be geostationary and low orbited satellite tracking, and a rigorous dish movement test. As the trials were to be on a 24-hour basis, for a fortnight, the Troop was called in to provide assistance to GEC-AEI Ltd., the contractor, to help man the station.

On 30th December, **Sergeant John Forster** and five other members of the Troop departed for Stanmore. The trials were completely successful and **Sergeant Forster** and his crew received valuable experience in the operation of M-TWO. During the servo trials, traffic tests were carried out with an R.A.F. Type 3 station.

On 21st January, the Ministry of Technology accepted M-TWO from the contractor.

On Thursday, 5th February, **Major John Newman** formally accepted M-TWO from the Ministry of Technology. Whilst the official handover was taking place in London, the station check was being carried out by **W.O.I (F. of S.) Jim Lawrence** of 'F' Troop and **Sergeant McEwan**, from the Q.M.'s department, at Stanmore.

Next day the check was completed and the station set off for R.A.F. Oakhanger in convoy of five four-tonners.

It was offloaded on Saturday and, by 17.30 hours, was set up and working. The Troop immediately went on to 24-hour working and started preparing for the tasks which lie ahead. These will include the calibration of the station, the acceptance of a second satellite and interface checks with the Skynet Control Station at R.A.F. Oakhanger.

'T' Troop takes the initiative—of course

By Sergeant John Forster

In December, whilst 'T' Troop was waiting for its equipment to arrive, a request was made to R.H.Q. for the bored tradesmen to be given a constructive job to do. It so happened that a child care centre at Malvern, which caters for 29 boys between the ages of 9 and 15 years, needed assistance in the construction of an initiative course.

The next day, under the guidance of **W.O.II Underwood**, the Regiment's P.T. Instructor, we were working in the Malvern Hills with a cold wind blowing down our necks and snow in our boots, building a confidence course.

We were **Sergeants Forster** and **Bevis, Corporals Belcher, Edwards and Berry, Lance-Corporals Legge** and **Parker**, and **Signalman Cook**—seven technicians and an ED—all with lily-white hands and sensitive back muscles. After the first week, humping telegraph poles, digging holes and climbing trees, we had come to the conclusion that we were not the men for the job, and only frequent stops for tea and buns kept us going.

We weren't the only ones involved; a dog and a tame (?) goat were always at hand to help; although how the dog and **Dave Cook** ended up in a snow drift will never be known! One of the boys at the centre was a great help too. He was employed searching for and collecting **Marty Bevis's** lost gloves. (Just how many pairs of gloves has Marty got?).

Anyway, somehow the job was finished. Just before Christmas we had built a wall, balance walk, crawl-through tyres, vaulting bars, swing and all the other fiendish devices common to initiative courses. Strangely enough, the boys seemed to enjoy it; no accounting for tastes. The thing even got on to B.B.C. television . . . they must have been short of news that night!

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

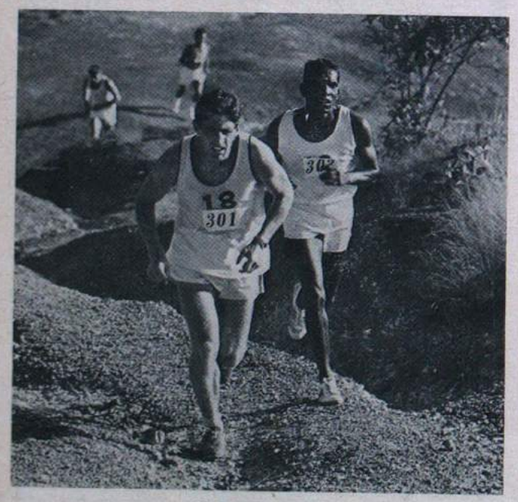
Commanding Officer ...	Lt.-Col. J. H. Hild, M.B.E.
Second-in-Command ...	Major J. T. Treglown
Adjutant	Captain R. W. Garlick
R.S.M.	W.O.I A. J. Thomas
Malay R.S.M.	W.O.I Othman Tasi
H.Q. Squadron	Captain B. Robinson
	W.O.II A. J. Harris
1 Squadron	Major C. F. Bushell
	W.O.II L. Burnham
2 Squadron	Major L. D. Edinger
	W.O.II Lee Kim Ann
249 Squadron (FARELF)	Major H. G. MacKinlay
	W.O.II P. A. Dean

(Thank you 18th Regiment — would other units like to follow suit with a list of their principal appointments from time to time.—Editor).

AS in most places perhaps, the aftermath of Christmas left us in January with a comparatively quiet month, though as all readers are aware, 'comparative' covers a wide margin!

Good cross-country results

In the sporting world the unit again organised the Singapore District Cross-country Championship, in which we achieved a better result than last year, coming second to the 1/2 Gurkha and fighting off the strongly-fancied 40 and 42 Commandos Royal Marines. **Lieutenant David Gardiner** finished in second place after a close race with the winning Gurkha and **Signalman Palany,** who ran a good race and finished 11th. He was followed by **Signalman R. K. Stanley** (12th), **Corporal Beach J. Beach** (17th), **Signalman R. A. Smith** (20th), **Corporal P. Lord** (31st), **Lance-Corporal Sooria** (35th) and **Lieutenant P. H. MacCulloch** (36th). After the race it was announced that the Regiment had won the District League, having put up very consistent performances in five meetings during the season.



PLUGGING ON

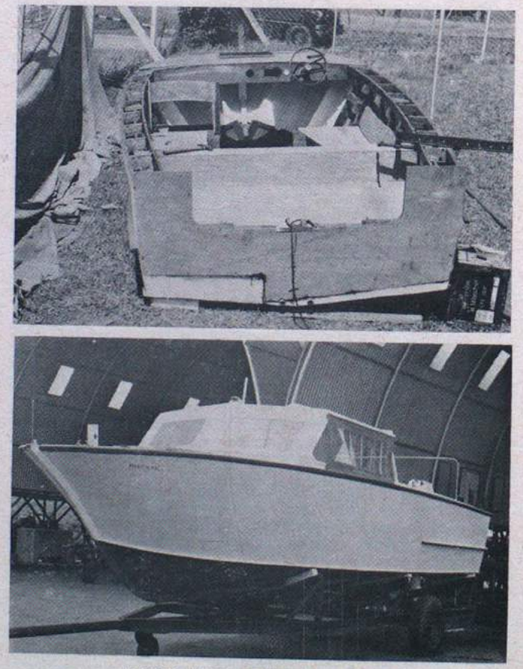
Lieutenant Gardiner and Signalman Palamy at the half way mark in the District Cross Country Championship

Sailors sail away

Very regrettably a large number of our prominent sailors have left the unit in the past two months, amongst them being **Major** and **Mrs. Mark Barker, Major** and **Mrs. Bird, Corporal's Essam, Gladwin, Gray, Ellis, Jennings** and **Lincoln** — thus removing practically the whole of our Regimental and Corps team. The departure of the two ladies in particular will be keenly felt, both being excellent sailors in their own right.

The Regimental Fleet expands

What we have lost in sailors, however, we have gained in boats and our bosun, **Sergeant Eouzan,** now has to contend with quite a fleet; a sampan, two ski boats, the Ketch Brigand and now a fast 16 foot launch, Pommie. The history of Pommie begins nearly ten years ago when the Nuffield Trust bought a launch for 237 Signal Squadron, then in Bangkok, which was subsequently lost in a storm. With the proceeds of the insurance the 'Chey Wen' was acquired in 1965 from **Sergeant Major Gill,** then of 19th Signal Regiment, and with the rundown of the Squadron in Bangkok, this boat fell into disuse and was eventually bought down to Singapore where this Regiment's P.R.I. bought her in April, 1969. After a lot of hard work on the part of our L.A.D., under **W.O.I. (A.S.M.) Parkinson,** she now looks as good as new and as the good ship Pommie has now taken to the water. Our photographs show the before and after effect of the work put in by the L.A.D. The results self-evident indeed, showing a very considerable difference.



ADDITION TO REGIMENTAL FLEET

"Pommie" before and after the unit L.A.D. had had a go at her

Champion Squadron lance

249 Signal Squadron will obviously feel this to be so, with their annual vehicle and equipment inspection taking place and therefore being involved in the usual preparations. As a compensation for their hard work, though quite unconnected with it, they were presented with the Champion Squadron lance, having gained the highest points in the Regimental competition. This competition includes drill, a barrack room competition, and marks for the percentage of the Squadron who have been upgraded during the year. The Commander 5th Signal Group, **Colonel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.,** was kind enough to review the parade and present the lance.

The parade was followed for our living-in Malay soldiers by a belated Hari Raya lunch. The fact that it was delayed from the actual festival time obviously did nothing to impair appetites, as was quite obvious from the vast quantity (at least to the European eye) of rice consumed! This was followed later in the month by the annual Chinese New Year Dinner, ably run by the S.S.M. of 2 Squadron, **W.O.II. Lee Kim Ann.** This took place in the 'Happy Nite-Club' in Singapore and the excellent Chinese meal was much enhanced by the performances of an exotic strip-tease girl; whose act was ably supported at suitable intervals by cries of "Yam Seng."

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

STILL clasped in the firm frozen grip of winter, the Regiment swung out of the Christmas social season and into the 'Seventies with little let-up in activity. This month sees us still in the midst of the gestation period of a lot of undertakings, ranging from cross-country running, through holidays on the Italian lakes, to VTOL jet fighters. Shortage of space and a certain sense of stage management forbid us elaborating futher; we will content ourselves and the readers of these columns with the promise that succeeding instalments of Wire notes will reveal all!

Comings and goings

A considerable amount of reshuffling among the officers of the Regiment included the arrival of **Lieutenant Neil Mackereth,** from Catterick, and **Second-Lieutenant Tom Moncur,** from Winchester. Later in the month, **Major Dick Sumner** arrived from West Byfleet to take over command of the projected Harrier Squadron, which is due to form in the next few months. Our 'phantom' arrival, who is with us on paper (and in spirit, we presume!) is **Lieutenant John Reed,** who is on a course at the School of Signals. It will be noted that in this time there have been no postings out, but let us hasten to reassure the more suspicious of our readers that this is by no means a 'Rolls-Royce' establishment; the coming months will be busy ones, with more than enough for everyone to do!

Annual Fitness for Role Inspection

We are delighted (if not relieved!) to report a most successful inspection of the unit by **Brigadier Paul Crook,** Commander, Rhine Area, on 28th January. Thanks to a cheerful and confident cast, we were able to offer a crowded and ambitious programme, involving three different stations, which went without snag from start to finish. The Commander has written to express his pleasure at what he saw.

During the inspection, **Captain Ronald Allen** and **Sergeant Tom McGrath** of 'H' Troop, were able to initiate the Brigadier, the C.O. and the R.S.M. into the mysteries of divining. In the photograph, you can see **Brigadier Crook** proving that even an Infantryman can unearth a water main, given two pieces of wire. It really did work!

The other major event of the day was the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Staff Sergeants Stan Lee** and **Stan Gibney.** In the celebrations following the ceremony, we naturally offered the two the use of the 'Anderson Tankard,' which is always available to the man of the moment at our Regimental occasions. You can see in our photograph an impressive demonstration of the powers of improvisation and co-operation that have brought the two N.C.O.s through 18 years of unblemished service.

THE BIRD OF THE YEAR

The "Bird of the Year" trophy presented by Colonel J. C. Clinch, received on behalf of the Regiment by the Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Butler

The last of the CAFSO's

This month the Regiment said farewell to **Colonel Johnny Clinch,** who relinquished his appointment as Commander, 4 Group, on posting to Harrogate, and, of course, was for a long while our CAFSO, before this appointment vanished in the re-structuring of Air Formation Signals. The officers of the Regiment journeyed to R.A.F. Bruggen to lunch-out in fitting style the last of the CAFSO's, thus marking the end of a long and fruitful association on both the professional and personal level. Inevitably tinged, as it was, with more than a hint of sadness, the lunch was not without its lighter moments and many of the 'Clinch legends' were unearthed and suitable mementoes presented.

In an amusing and witty reply, **Colonel Clinch** demonstrated himself well able to withstand the toasting (and some roasting!) he had received at the hands of the C.O. and Second-in-Command, **Major Lief Welton,** and concluded by presenting to the Regiment a superb 'Bird of the Year' trophy. A magnificent specimen, as our photograph of the presentation shows. Our best wishes go with **Colonel Clinch** in his new appointment, and we hope that it will be as enjoyable and rewarding for him as this latter association has been for 21st Signal Regiment.

Rhine Area Champions again

On 14th January the Regimental cross-country team won the Rhine Area Championship for the fourth successive year. It was a most impressive victory, with six runners taking places in the first seven (first, **Corporal Peter Dring;** second, **Corporal George Holden;** third, **Corporal Mick Gue;** fifth, **Lance-Corporal Graham Campbell;** sixth, **Corporal Chris Cottam,** and seventh, **Lance-Corporal Fred Roissetter**) and the team score,

21 SIGNAL REGIMENT—RHINE AREA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS, 1970

Standing, left to right: Corporals Gue, Holden, Cotham, Lieutenant T. J. Cantle, Lieutenant-Colonel N. A. Butler, Corporal McNeill, Lance-Corporal Hunt

Seated, left to right: Lance-Corporals Roissetter, Innes, Mrs. Cotham (recorder), Lance-Corporals Campbell, Woodford and Corporal Dring

of 49 points, being nearly 200 better than the runners-up, 28th Signal Regiment.

The team in now in very strict training for the BAOR Championships and their morale could not be higher. We are confident that this is our year, and we shall live up to the targets set in October, 1968. Read next month's WIRE to see whether we were right.

Stop Press—We win it

The Regimental cross-country team won the B.A.O.R. championships on 10th February, scoring 85 points. This is the first time that Royal Signals have won this title, indeed, it is the first time that any other unit than Infantry or Cavalry have been successful.

Positions in the team race: **Corporal Gue** (1st), **Corporal Holden** (2nd), **Corporal Dring** (3rd), **Corporal MacMillan** (5th), **Lance-Corporal Campbell** (13th), **Corporal Storer** (17th), **Lance-Corporal Roissetter** (20th), **Corporal Cottam** (23rd), **Corporal McNeill** (36th), **Lance-Corporal Woodford** (48th). There were 140 runners.

Running as an individual, that magnificent runner, **Corporal Bill Venus,** of 22nd Signal Regiment, finished comfortably in front of our lads, but it was nice to be swept in on a sea of orange jerseys, knowing they had the same cap badge.

(And they came 2nd in the Army Championships—see page 92.—Editor).

REGULATION PATTERN

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Still going strong — Royal Signals Detachment, Anguilla

Left to right: **Sergeant Martin (14th Signal Regiment), Signalman Goodacre, Corporal Jones, Corporal Lyons, Signalman Black (14th Signal Regiment), Sergeant Amos, Lance-Corporal McLean, Yeoman of Signals Bland**

NOW that the excitement of the festive season and the departure of AMF(L) Force Radio Troop has died down, the Regiment has settled back to its usual busy routine. First-hand reports of occurrences in Norway have been brought back with the return of **Lieutenant Bob Baynes** and AMF(L) U.K. Battalion Signal Troop from Exercise 'Hardfall IV.' We have been kept informed of events in Northern Ireland by **Second-Lieutenant Tony Edwards,** who has just returned from 39th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. He reports that everyone is in high spirits and that **Lieutenant Chris Greig,** who joined the Squadron on 20th January, has already made his presence felt with the organisation of a Land Rover/map-reading exercise which simulated every disaster that could occur.

1 Squadron

Still with the Navy, a detachment from 1 Squadron, consisting of **Corporal Harris, Lance-Corporal Le'tch,** and **Signalman Samways,** kept up the good name of the Squadron with a highly-successful JOCOMEX with H.M.S. *Bulwark*. Starting in the early hours of the morning, communications were maintained with D11, R230 and C11 standby as H.M.S. *Bulwark* sailed from Portsmouth towards Gibraltar. Traffic was passed for 36 hours until midday on the 28th. The only hitch came with the visit of **Yeoman of Signals Gordon Wright** during the evening, and the change of direction of the antenna in total darkness, thick freezing fog, and with the aid of one torch. No reports of frostbite or exposure have yet been received. But the brave three need worry no more about the frost; later this month they depart for Anguilla.

Anguilla detachment

Early January saw the arrival of the Commanding Officer on a whirlwind tour of the island and neighbouring Antigua. The Colonel was able to assess the communication requirement in the light of the current situation; one manifestation of his visit was the sight of the Yeoman of Signals, **Staff Sergeant Colin Bland,** on top of a 100-odd foot latticed tower attaching a suitable VHF antenna to work the airhead in Antigua, some 94 miles distant.

The Colonel was able to meet and discuss problems with all members of the Force Signal Detachment, amongst them **Lance-Corporal Geoff Hirst,** who, with **Lance-Corporal Sandy Maclean,** supervises the running of the D11 rear link to JRS Nassau, 1,100 miles to the north. **Lance-Corporal Hirst,** incidentally, is the first radio amateur to be re-licensed on the island. He works 20 and 15 metres extensively on CW and SSB under his callsign VP2KQ.

The replacement detachment are due to leave the Regiment in March for their six-month tour under Caribbean skies . . . . some folks have all the luck!

AMF(L) Force Radio Troop

With the return of **Lieutenant-Colonel Rose,** the Commanding Officer, from a five-day visit to Norway, came this report from AMF(L) Force Radio Troop:

"After a stormy voyage, we arrived in Jørstadmoen, the home of the Norwegian Signals, for breakfast on Sunday 4th January. **Captain Crouch, Staff Sergeant Gilder** and **Sergeant Watson,** the advance party, had done all the ground work for us, and we were allotted rooms, which we immediately used to catch up on all our lost sleep from the journey.

The following day we were met and welcomed to Norway and Jørstadmoen by **Major Stenne,** the Officer Commanding the Training Battalion, and we started learning to live and move in Arctic conditions. The temperature when we arrived, –32°C. rose to a 'warm' –15°C., which made living easier. Under Norwegian Army instructors, we were taught the basics of ski-ing and survival, which we put into practice the first week by camping out in our five-man tents. **Sergeant West** and **Corporal Kynaston** lead the field in the Ski-ing. We spent two days on cross-country ski-ing, setting off in the early morning in parties of twenty with a Norwegian instructor and covering sixteen kilometres across the mountains by dark. Notable events on these two days included **Signalman Wilson** (622) seeing **Signalman Wilson** (364) in a snowdrift overhead singing "Do you think I would leave you lying, when there's room on my skis for two" and **Sergeant Wood,** R.A.V.C., was heard to say as he careered down a slope, "If you want medical assistance, stop me!"

Apart from ski-ing, we have done three exercises to try our radios and to practice operating in Arctic conditions. All three went very well; a lot of new problems were discovered and solved.

We are leaving for Germany on 2nd February after a month's enjoyable and interesting stay in Jørstadmoen. All the Norwegian instructors have been most helpful and friendly, and we approach Exercise 'Arctic Express' with confidence."

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

A QUIET month, a month of fog and rain and biting winds, but strangely little snow. January, and a new decade begins. It is often said that no news is good news, but where the WIRE Note writer is concerned it makes life exceedingly difficult. Yet opportunity is thus presented for the spotlight to be turned on events and occasions not usually reported.

Judo

The Regimental Judo team has begun training in earnest for the forthcoming Northern Command Judo Championships, to be held in York on 6th March. The team is attempting to retain the title it won last year.

Meanwhile, two members of the team, **Sergeant Black** and **Sergeant Roberts** are continuing to teach children from the Convent of the Assumption School in Richmond and already several of the children have achieved Junior Mons grading of 6th and 5th Kyu.

Inside, the Regiment classes have recently begun for the W.R.A.C., and it is perhaps unnecessary to describe the reaction of the soldiers!

Cross-country

The Regimental cross-country took place on Saturday, the 17th January. The race as a spectacle was spoilt by the dense fog which clamped down on Catterick on the day before the race, consequently spectators saw virtually nothing but the finish. The winner, **Signalman Martin,** of 1 Squadron, completed the course so far ahead of his rivals, however, that even this was devoid of excitement. The course, ankle-deep in mud and slush, put a premium on stamina and determination, and thus 24th Signal Regiment was not at all surprised at **Martin's** excellent third in the Northern Command Cross-country Championships on the 23rd January. We look forward with confidence to the Army Championships.

I SQUADRON—WINNERS OF REGIMENTAL CROSS-COUNTRY
Back row, left to right: Signalman Lamberton, Signalman Langdale, Signalman East, Signalman Brewer, Signalman Martin (the individual winner) Sergeant Bowman
Front row: Signalman Huntingdon, Sergeant Tuppenney, Signalman Ballance

In brief

Sergeant Dyke and **Sergeant Ellis** were dined out of the Sergeants' Mess during the month. The four ton Battery Charger was taken to Barnard Castle School for an afternoon's instruction on the 27th January.

The Officers' Mess soccer team, strongly represented by officers from 24th Signal Regiment, drew 3-3 with the Sergeants' Mess, 11th Signal Regiment.

The new Sergeants' Mess dining room annex was opened — the R.S.M. is still working on the cocktail bar!

Mass of colour around 24th Signal Regiment . . . spring? No, shoulder flashes in a kaleidoscope of colours.

Police in the kitchen — learning the culinary arts from the A.C.C. Staff of 24th Signal Regiment, a three week course — ready for any emergency — not only can they deliver the baby our P.C.s can now cook for the rest of the family!

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

'The Wire' is always eager to receive items of Corps news of interest to its readers. If short, such items can be sent in by telephone or signal, even after the closing date for written copy. So let us hear about anything that may be of interest—sporting successes, unusual feats by individuals, news of retired members—anything that you think should be in 'The Wire.'

Be newsminded and keep us informed (Tel. No. 91-730-4129).

We hate to say:

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

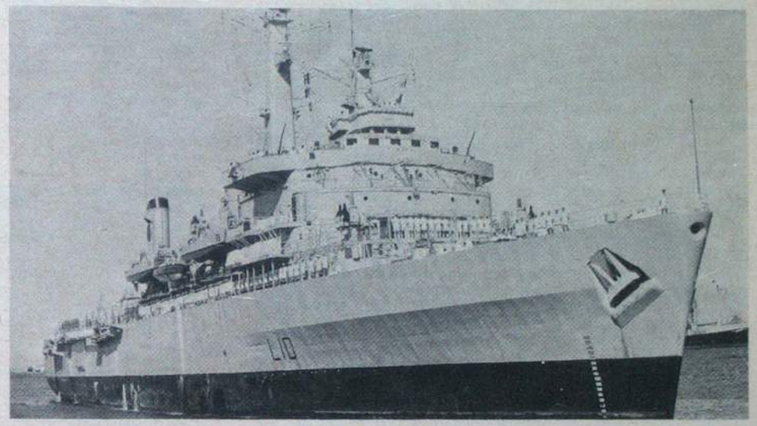
FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS
Reports from the Outposts

With the Royal Navy to Australia

By

Captain W. P. B. Thomas

A visit to Western Australia, by courtesy of the Royal Navy. This was the offer by the Captain of the LPD, H.M.S. 'Fearless,' to all units of the Army and R.A.F. in the Far East. For those lucky enough to go, it was probably the most worthwhile twenty-four days away from their units that they could ever have wished for.



MANNING SHIP
H.M.S. Fearless entering Fremantle Harbour, West Australia

It is not uncommon for Servicemen to indulge by R.A.F. or R.A.A.F. to Eastern Australia, but the West is probably unknown. Below is a brief description of a visit to Fremantle and Perth and some impressions for would-be immigrants.

A very mixed collection

Most of the force embarked on H.M.S. *Fearless* at the Naval Base in Singapore, although some had come aboard at Hong Kong. It was a very mixed collection of soldiers, airmen, marines, and the combined Pipes and Drums of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles and the Gurkha Engineers—in all, eight officers and about 120 men. Leaving Singapore in the rain, at 1 p.m., we had hardly time to eat before we were able to watch a 'RAS'—a resupply at sea. A RN fleet auxiliary positioned herself about 60ft. on the starboard bow and shot two lines aboard, one forward, one aft. The aft line, within minutes became a gantry and pallet loads of stores and food were quickly pulled on board. This lasted about two hours and was hard work for the sailors, as each load was pulled across by hand. Meanwhile, both ships remained perfectly in position, using the forward line to judge the distance and changing course by klaxon signal (5° of rudder every five minutes).

A bit about 'Fearless'

To explain a little about H.M.S. *Fearless*. She is a Landing Platform Dock (LPD), one of two ships used by the R.N. to move and support an embarked force of Army or Royal Marines on to a beach head. Her complement is about 45 officers and 520 men, this includes a party of Royal Marines, who operate the four LCMs and four LCVPs, the LPD Operating Troop, mainly R.C.T., but includes R.E.M.E., R.E., R.A.P.C. and A.C.C., who are responsible for the vehicle decks, and 621 (LPD) Signal Troop, who provide military communications.

The embarked force can vary in size, but 540 officers and men can comfortably be carried, although an overload of 900 have been squeezed in. The vehicle decks will hold 50 armoured vehicles, including 17 main battle tanks, 10 Saladins, 23 Ferrets, 106 3-ton and 90 ¼-ton vehicles. The flight deck can fly off two Wessex simultaneously and carry many more. The Operations room is equipped for a Brigade Headquarters, with supporting Arms and Services, operating in air-conditioned comfort. The deck at the stern of the ship is flooded by opening the stern doors and filling the ballast tanks. The ship sinks nine feet and the LCMs, fully laden, are floated out.

On this trip we were not to see any operational action; however, a R.N. ship sailing on a courtesy visit is rather like preparing for an Army adminstration inspection—paint everywhere. Every deck was eventually put out of bounds as it was painted with non-slip green paint, applied with a roller. The embarked force were put to various tasks, and seemed to enjoy it, as it was only morning work, with plenty of fresh air and accompanied by the Pipes and Drums having their morning practice. At 12.00 hours came the rum ration, half water and half rum, and drunk down in one, a good midday meal, followed by sunbathing on the decks or sleeping, sport, tea, a film show, or sharing out the beer and stories till pipe-down, which was when, with luck, you stayed in your bunk, as the ship rolled around at the slightest swell.

The embarked force officers, having been shown around every corner of the ship, repeatedly got lost, caught up on sleep, ate and drank too well (duty-free prices) and eventually sought refuge in the wardroom and played 'Uckers' all the way to Australia. One entertainment not to be forgotten was the ship's pantomime, 'Sinbad the Sailor,' a carefare take-off of the life and characters aboard ship.

Arrival at Fremantle

After seven days we arrived off Fremantle, the port for Perth. This was very fortunate for some nine Australians whose launch had broken down and was drifting helplessly. A LCVP was quickly launched and towed the unfortunate crew into harbour; this, of course, created a big story for the local papers, who soon had it splashed over the front page of the evening editions.

The arrival of one of H.M. warships to a foreign port is an important event and is about equivalent to the visit of one's Regimental Colonel-in-Chief. The ship shone, the ship's company and embarked force, in best uniform, manned the rails, and the bands, both afloat and ashore, played. Gently and efficiently the ship sailed in and tied up at the berth, all stood to attention and the White Ensign was broken at the bows.

The formalities were quickly over and it was not long before two of us had slipped ashore and made for the first pub, appropriately named 'The West Australian' and were downing our first 'middi' of very cold Australian beer.

First impressions

First impressions are important. I have always expected a dock to be rather dirty, a muddle of warehouses, railway sidings, cranes and draughty jetties. However, Fremantle must rate as one of the cleanest and smartest looking ports in the world. The passenger terminal, handling thousands of immigrants and cruise visitors, is more modern and smart than any air terminal I have yet seen. Not a scrap of rubbish or dirt could be found, the impression was of efficiency and cleanliness; in addition, the temperature was in the nineties, with a cool westerly breeze in the afternoon.

Another point of note, on our arrival, was the number of people who came on board, stacked with information and advice on how to enjoy ourselves in Fremantle and Perth. The ship's liaison officer, sent in advance by air, arrived with a string of invitations for all ranks, and soon the 'Shore Leave Information Centre,' with three telephone lines to shore was humming with activity. Anything was available, from a trip around the local brewery to a week's stay on a cattle station for three junior ratings from Manchester. It was now that one realised what was meant when Fremantle was described as 'a good run ashore' by the matelots.

A first class party

It was on the first evening that the ship really came to life. A well-tried recipe, which rarely fails, is to floodlight the ship, put up awnings and a bar on deck and throw a cocktail party to anyone who is anyone. The result was a first-class party which carried on with beating Retreat, supper, and dancing to the ship's group, the 'Fearless Four,' to the small hours and invitations for all in return.

Much had been said on the way across as to the 'quantity and quality' of West Australian girls. We may have been at sea for seven days, but we hadn't forgotten what good-looking girls looked like. Large, tall, ugly, uncultured Amazons, in short supply, they were most certainly not. In fact, they were all very good-looking, wore micro skirts unabashed, shorter than when I was last in the U.K., were friendly and full of fun. Such is the prosperous way of life in Western Australia that most young people have their own cars and flats and live an independent carefree life.

A hectic ten days

For the next ten days life became a hectic rush to fit in all the things one wanted to do. Most of us lived on the ship, probably overslept for breakfast, and were out the rest of the day sightseeing and back again in the small hours. During that time I visited a vineyard—mostly a problem of seeing how many wines one could sample in two hours—swam and roasted on a surf beach, seventy per cent covered in bikini-clad girls; toured the prosperous suburbs, King's Park and the Swan River; drove myself to Yan Chap Nature Park—lots of koala bears, kangaroos, emus and black swans—for a picnic, also provided by a girl-friend; was driven round by a surveyor friend to see the huge industrial expansion areas of Fremantle, Naval Base, Kwinana, the airfield of Jandakot, where tiny private planes take off and land at the rate of one a minute; saw the vast dairying and sheep farms and the huge Canning Dam. It was here that we realised what the 'Bush' is like, for, going down a dirt track road leading through the bush, we had two punctures and had to wait for a passing motorist to lift in our driver to the nearest road, four miles away, to get the second tyre repaired. We were lucky, it could have been a hundred miles.

The 'Session'

I also saw 'the session.' No drink can be sold on a Sunday in Perth, so thirsty Australians must drive 25 miles to the nearest pub, where drinking is allowed two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. If you don't queue up with your jug before it starts, you probably won't get served; and afterwards, the drive back to town is a time for sane people to keep off the road. I was taken to a night club . . . buy your own bottles beforehand, hand them in at the door in exchange for a ticket, and they are kept cool till you need them. I dined at an unlicensed restaurant (very expensive) where the waiter collected drinks from the hotel across the street; I didn't want a full bottle, so he asked around the other diners and came back with two glasses of free wine.

I discovered that all hotels were called pubs and just provided beer at a bar, or, if you were lucky, had a lounge which seated 500, with a dance band and mini-skirted waitresses; at 10 p.m. you bought your beer from the 'carry-out' department and made your way home. I was amazed at the Australian capacity for taking a boat out on the River Swan, filling it with people, food and drink, and doing nothing but eat and drink. I learnt when driving to give way to the right and that at a drive-in cinema you don't go out to watch the film.

Sport pre-eminent

The five-day week for all means that sport is a major occupation, be it cricket, Australian rules football, speedway, horse-racing, trotting, squash (every district has good public courts), tennis and bowls (grass courts and floodlit), sailing, golf (12 courses in the Perth area), water ski-ing, surf-riding and swimming. Many of these sporting clubs exist to provide a way around the licensing laws, but I didn't meet a single Australian, male or female, who didn't take an active part in a sport or game.

The ship itself provided a great deal of interest, being open for visitors on Saturday and Sunday, and giving a party for local underprivileged children on Friday. Other visitors included H.M.A.S. *Leeuwin* (a junior sailors' training establishment), R.A.A.F. and Regular Army units from Western Command.

All too soon the ten-day visit was ended and the final parties, both ashore and afloat, caused a tired crew to assemble on deck for the farewell ceremonies. However, a strike by the local tugmen gave us an extra hour on shore to say goodbye to those who had offered so much hospitality and pleasure to all ranks of the ship, So, with bands playing and in bright sunshine, we sailed for home.

W. Australia in retrospect

Looking back on the trip, while I sail home, it would be wise to fill in a few facts concerning West Australia, because one can read all the pamphlets and books one likes in Australia House, but first-hand knoweldge is invaluable.

Western Australia is big. It is ten times the size of U.K., three times the size of Texas. Its area is almost a million square miles, but its population is less than a million, more than half of which live in Perth. It varies from the tropics in the north to the temperate zone in the south. Perth averages nearly eight hours of sunshine a day, and has a temperature varying from 120°F. dry heat, to a slight possibility of frost, averaging about 70°F. The state is probably the fastest growing and has the greatest potential of any in the world, there being enough iron ore for the world's needs for the next 100 years. Nickel, gold, bauxite for aluminium, cattle, wheat and sheep are probably the principal industries.

There is tremendous potential for anyone who is prepared to work here, there being a great shortage of labour at all levels. The potential immigrant must be prepared to work at any job as soon as he arrives and to keep changing jobs until he has got what he wants. Wages are high, but long hours are worked and taxes are less than in the U.K. Prices are high, and so is the standard of living. There is no welfare state or national health, but people are healthy and only one per cent out of work. American ideas, finance and way of life are very strong, but the people are still pro-Britain. The price of land for a house is very expensive—£2,500—then the price of a bungalow has to be added, but loans are easy to obtain. A few flats are built in Perth, but every Australian likes his quarter-acre of ground, where he grows tropical fruit and flowers, but has to spend a fortune on water charges to keep it from drying-up, as there is little rain for many months. He is unable to sit in the garden, due to the flies, which swarm everywhere, so every house has flymesh over all doors and windows. There are many and various complex controls and regulations, ranging from the prevention of bush fires, by burning off all scrub and grass, to swimming only where there is

(*Continued on page* 121)

(*Continued from page* 120)

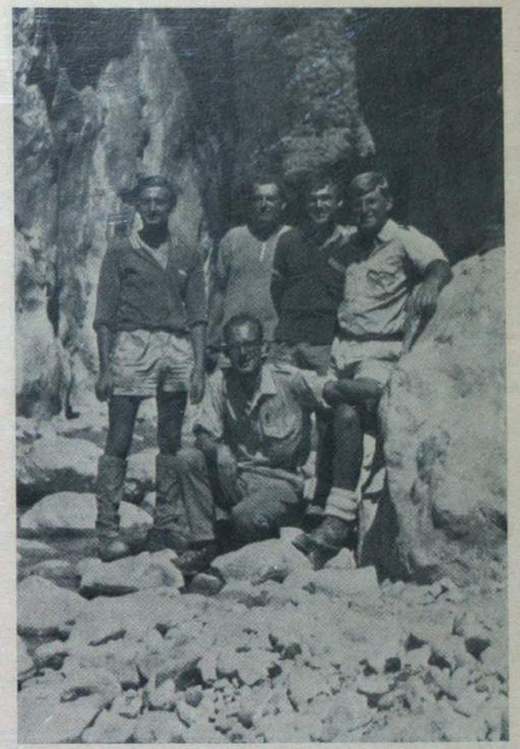
a shark lookout and lifeguard. The distances and vastness of the country mean isolation and loneliness for those not prepared for it, but driving 500 miles a day, with a 'roo bar' on the front to bounce off stray kangaroos is quite common.

It is a classless society, but there is a certain amount of small-town snobbery amongst the old families. Basically, people are interested in making money and enjoying life outdoors, fortunes are quickly made by those who work hard and grab at opportunities. There is a cheerful, optimistic, pioneering spirit amongst the West Australians. They know they are living in the latest, fastest-growing and richest white-populated stated in the world and are keen for immigrants, especially from the U.K., to come and help them open it up and enjoy it.

Where I shall undoubtedly want to settle

To sum up the whole trip, I am most grateful to have had the opportunity to see the Royal Navy at work and play and have a first-hand look at a country where I shall undoubtedly want to settle in when I have retired from the Service.

RESUPPLY AT SEA
Mail comes across from the Fleet Auxiliary Gold Ranger to Fearless



ROYAL SIGNALS MEMBERS POSE IN THE 'IRON GATES' OF THE SAMARIA RAVINE
Lance-Corporal Smith, Corporal Collinson, Corporal Billsberry, Corporal Patterson, Lieutenant Reynolds

Across the Stronghold

An account of the Troodos Joint R.A.F./Royal Signals expedition to the White Mountains of Crete, Autumn, 1969

By Lieutenant N. G. Reynolds, Royal Signals, 261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)

'Not Entitled'

I THINK that the idea of crossing the White Mountains was first put to me by **Flying Officer Mike Winning** at some late hour in the Officers' Mess bar at Troodos, in February, 1969, and from there, like all good junior officers' schemes, it grew larger day by day. We decided to take ten men, half R.A.F. and half Royal Signals, all from Troodos. Our aims were:

- To cross the White Mountains from east to west, climbing as many as possible of the main peaks en route.
- To walk down the Samaria ravine, the largest in Europe.
- To prepare the members of the Troodos Sub-Unit of the N.E.A.F. Mountain Rescue Team for their winter duties.
- To study the area in which the guerillas operated during Second World War.

And so, after months of planning, letter-writing, obtaining equipment and money, despite cries of 'not entitled' from all sides, we finally sailed for Crete via Rhodes on 17th September. We were one member short, however, for **Sergeant Terry Heath,** who was to have been our official photographer, had been involved in a car accident only a few days before, and was still not fit to travel.

'Siga, Siga'

We arrived at Heraklion, the main port and largest town on the island on 21st September. To our surprise, we were met on the docks by **Lieutenant Villios,** of the Greek Army Special Forces, who took us to meet his Commanding Officer. They explained that as exercises were taking place in this area, **Lieutenant Villios,** as Liaison Officer, and an armed guard, would have to accompany us over the mountains. The next day we set off, now thirteen strong, for the village of Ammoudarion, high on the edge of the Askifou plain, on the eastern side of the White Mountains. Accommodation here was arranged in the police station, and, after sorting out our equipment for the next day, we went to meet the local inhabitants at their coffee shop. From them we learnt that weather conditions were still quite good in the mountains and that it was not likely to deteriorate for about another three weeks.

The White Mountains

The next morning we made an early start and headed off up the winding track into the mountains. As we went higher, the vegetation became sparse, until at about 6,000 feet we

were walking on bare rock and loose stones. This type of scenery continued for the next four days, as we moved westwards over the mountains, climbing as many as possible of the peaks over 7,000 feet. On the third day, four of the party climbed Mount Paknes (8,044 feet), the highest peak of the whole range. The view from the summit was wonderful, with the cloud-topped peaks of the whole range as far as the eye could see, and Suda Bay glimpsed far away to the north. From here we moved to the Omalos plateau, in the heart of the White Mountains, from where we intended to turn south towards the sea.

The Omalos Plateau

Situated at over 3,000 feet and covering 25 square kilometres, the Omalos is the most impressive of the Cretan upland plains. Although it is fairly fertile, there is no village, only two small cafes and a few shepherd huts. We spent a day there and took a quick look at the entrance to the vast cave complex at the northern end.

Samaria Ravine

The final day of foot work took us down the Samaria Ravine to the coast. The gorge is about 12 miles long, flanked on each side by barren rock faces, topped by the 'Rotten Crags.' At the half-way point lies the ruined village of Samaria, the last hideout of the post-war Communist guerillas, and about two miles beyond are the 'Iron Gates.' Here the gorge is about 12ft. wide, with the walls rising sheer to 2,000 feet. At the end of the gorge we reached the coast and the small village of Ayia Roumeli. From here we took the only way out—by boat along the coast to Khora Sfakion, the scene of the Commonwealth forces evacuation in 1942, where we found a rather rusty British steel helmet on the beach to prove the fact.

'Tsikoudhia'

After sampling the local firewater, 'Tsikoudhia, the party were in good enough humour to be taken round Minoan civilisation excavations at Knossos, which impressed even those who were sceptical of 'bits of old stone.' The final few days were spent looking around Heraklion before sailing for Cyprus on 8th October.

Conclusion

The value of the training was proved to be worthwhile, as, less than a week after our return, the Troodos Mountain Rescue team were alerted for a call-out in the Mount Olympus area, and all members of the Crete Expedition turned out for the search.

Royal Signals members of the party were: **Lieutenant Nick Reynolds, Corporals Wayne Collinson, Terry Patterson, Brian Billsberry** and **Lance-Corporal Joe Smith.**

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Exercise 'Cold Snap'

'ALPHA' Troop began the season with four days on the Soltau training area. Some interesting locations were found, which didn't quite measure up to our usual barn standard! Weather conditions provided good practice for the 432 drivers, and a chilly time was had by all. With the whole of the Soltau training area to reverse in, **Signalman Sykes** had to choose the O.C. Squadron's Rover to use as a brake on our crashout move. **Sergeant Parker** was heard to mutter: "He's been thinking again!" **Signalman Booth** found out that when O.C. 'Alpha' helps to take down the pentagon it's best to keep out of the way if you don't want an iron bar on your head! In the closing hours of the exercise, O.C. 'A,' Second-in-Command 'A' and the senior N.C.O.s 'died.' **Signalman Tharme** and **Signalman Linley,** as O.C. 'A' and Y. of S., performed these onerous duties with zest and provided much amusement.

On the whole, a valuable introduction to the season.

SPORTS REPORT

Cross-country

Urged on by the enthusiastic and ever-young **Sergeant Escott,** the team has gone from strength to strength. Having won the Brigade Minor Units Competition at Hohne on 21st January, the team journeyed to Hildesheim on 31st January for the 1st Division finals, where they won the Minor Units Competition and came second to the 1st Battalion Green Howards in the Major Units Competition. **Sergeant Escott** and **Lance-Corporal Dillon-White** finished in second and third places respectively.

Following the saying "If you can't beat 'em join 'em," our team has arranged to train with the Green Howards at Minden for the week prior to the B.A.O.R. finals. More of this next month.

Hockey

Having successfully thrashed Hannover Station 6-1 in the 1st Division Minor Units Cup semi-final on Wednesday, 4th February (our first match in eight weeks due to ice-bound pitches) the unit met 20th Corps Electronic Workshops REME in the final at Minden on Saturday, 7th February.

Unfortunately, the Workshops had watched the semi-final, and laid their plans accordingly. The Workshops team tackled hard and quickly, and the unit team were never allowed to settle into their normal rhythm. The Workshops had two scoring chances and netted the ball on both occasions. The unit had several chances, but only managed to score once. Result: 20th Corps Electronic Workshops 2 — 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron 1.

Our readers may remember that last year we had 10 different cap badges in the team that lost the divisional final. This year there were only seven. We actually managed to pack five members of the Corps in the team.

Football

Under the management of **Captain Finch, R.C.T.,** and ably assisted by **Sergeant Turner,** the unit football team are at present unbeaten in the Soltau Garrison Minor Units League, which they lead with 12 points.

The final of the 1st Division Minor Units football was an all Royal Signals affair when we met 225 Signal Squadron on 28th January. This we won 3-1 and so another pot resides at Soltau.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH
Royal Signals Association

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Masonic Rooms, Alexander Road, Farnborough, on Saturday, 2nd May, at 7.30 for 8 p.m.

All enquiries to **Mr. A. V. Ient,** 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants. (Tel. Aldershot 26358).

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

'Bravo' Troop: The Bruin Boys

IT has been quite a while since we were featured in THE WIRE, and there have been quite a few changes and a lot of new faces have arrived.

We have said goodbye to **Corporal Dennis Corser** and **Lance-Corporal Forbes Davidson,** who have gone to Cyprus, and to **Lance-Corporal Fred Alexander,** who has gone to Hong Kong.

We have gained, after a long hectic battle with the Q.M., **Corporal Jim Ross** from the Ration Store, and he is once again with his D10, quad and BPO 706s. Another addition to the line crews is **Signalman Alan Bolton,** who transferred from radio relay to lineman, but he doesn't yet know how versatile one has to be to be a lineman in this Troop!

The year started off with a rather cold exercise on Soltau in January, and some of the comments about brazen anthropoids were very apt; however, the aim of the exercise was to 'break in' the new boys, and it certainly achieved that. (Possibly breaking-in some of the old boys as well!).

Social activities have been high on the list of events, with the big day being 30th January, when we had Monty Sunshine and his Jazz Men in the Green Scarf Club.

People became so indoctrinated with his trad jazz that they were dancing on chairs and tables so that they could see over the top of the crowd. Making their debut at this evening was the newly-formed Squadron group, and in the lead guitarist's chair is **Signalman Jo Ashton.** We hope that he will be staying with us after 23rd February!

Our beloved Troop Sergeant, **Sergeant Stacey,** is away at Pirbright learning how to jump up and down on a drill square. He will soon be back to put his teaching into practice.

The three-striped 'hairy,' **Sergeant Anderson** has sold his car, bought a dinghy and a pair of wellington boots in preparation for his posting to—wait for it—the Outer Hebrides. Judging by the number of times he has read 'Whisky Galore,' anyone would think he was being optimistic!

However, the Troop still manages to provide what is asked for, and occasionally we go to the field, when required, to make telephones ring and teleprinters print, albeit the latter only just made it on an infamous and unnamed exercise.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (212) B.F.P.O. 36

Exercise Ends

DUE to various confusions (not just the G.P.O.), our notes missed the last issue and we must go back to November in order to maintain continuity. Exercise 'Small Pack,' in that month was our annual FFR inspection in the field. The unit's vehicles, led by the M.T.O., **Captain Ken Adrian,** formed the first of the 12 Brigade packets, and the critical timings were so well judged that we were never more than a minute out during the whole four-hour journey—an excellent achievement considering that the FV 432 drivers had to contend with freezing rain for much of the journey. The Brigade Commander, **Brigadier W. G. H. Beach, O.B.E., M.C.,** was the Inspecting Officer, and was obviously pleased, giving us a very good report. Mention must be made of the fact that every single vehicle in the unit, fully-loaded, reached the distant field location under its own steam and made its own way back without any help four days later. Is this a record for AFV 432/9?

Training

Although the exercise season had finished, training had not, and the beginning of December saw the start of another

AFV 432/9 drivers' course, bringing with it, as usual, the snow. "A" Troop's vehicles were again used for the training, which went well with our newly-qualified instructors from Bordon.

Another 'happening' every Tuesday and Thursday morning is the practice for 'A' Troops operators by tuning in to morse broadcasts from the School of Signals. This is supplemented by periods of instruction on operator fault-finding.

Sport

With a lull in exercises, sport has taken a high priority on the training programme. Immediately after Exercise 'Small Pack' the cross-country team, under **Corporal 'Jock' Asher,** started a concentrated training session. The training paid dividends, for on the day the team ran through wind, rain, hail and snow (and against opposition this year!) to come first out of five minor units in the 2nd Division competition, at the same time beating many of the major units, including our parents unit, 2nd Division Signal Regiment.

Also having success is the Squadron football team. Apart from being almost top of the area league, the team, led by **Sergeant Andy Shearer** is now the proud owner of the 2nd Division Minor Units Cup. Having beaten 7th Field Ambulance R.A.M.C., 6—0, and 1 (BR) Corps Ordnance Maint. Park 3—2, the team met 'A' Squadron 9/12 Lancers in the final. This was a very exciting game, the score after 90 minutes being 1—1. During the second half of extra time, the strain began to tell and the Squadron managed another goal, assuring them of the cup.

The unit boxing team is taking part in the Minor Units semi-finals in February, and the team, under **Corporal Asher,** is training hard for this event.

Also taking place during other afternoons are such sports as archery, rugby, swimming and horse riding, and we hope to include notes on these in our next issue.

Comings and goings

We say farewell to **Captain Bev Yates** and his family who are off to Malta. During their two-and-a-half years with the Squadron they have done much to improve life here, and the 'raves' at summer camp will never be quite the same again without 'Rowdy' and his guitar. We welcome in his place as Communications Officer, **Captain Dick Drew.** We also said goodbye recently to **Staff Sergeant John Jones,** who was posted on promotion to 13th Signal Regiment. Taking his place as 'A' Troop Sergeant, we now have **Sergeant 'Doc' Docherty,** who is already in full swing as non-running team captain of the cross-country team and giving full admin backing to the newly-formed unit boxing team.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT)
B.F.P.O. 18

'It's all over'

IN the words of Cliff Richards, "It's all over": P.R.I. shows a drop, most look a lot older, **Major Bill Morgan** finds himself with an evening at home; **R.Q.M.S. Ron Postlethwaite** seems even fatter; **S.S.M. Brian Brewer** is still convinced the modern soldier simply loves being woken up at 07.00 on Christmas Day to a mug of cold tea and rum; the Dutch public are quite sure the British are mad, but enjoyed watching the traditional soccer match on Boxing Day; **Signalman Trevor ('Sex Kitten') Brown** kissed most of the wives; **Corporal Derek Trueman** wants to come out of the Post Room; the kiddy-winks were just as impressed with Santa (complete with badge of R.Q.M.S.); the wives put away their daggers and all sat down to dinner; and through it all Officer-in-Charge, Royal Signals Records, still asked for his returns. Only two hundred and forty shopping days to Christmas now!

PE Tests with a difference

It was often the proud boast of the 'old soldier' that he could march 'X' miles with 'Y' pounds on his back, and one wonders if, in this day and age, the 'young' soldier is perhaps not as hardy as the old sweats. Well, here at AFCENT (with a photo we hope is accepted by THE WIRE), it has been shown that certainly as far as marching is concerned, the younger soldier is as tough as they ever were.

ANY CHALLENGERS?

The Maastricht Marching Team, who locally are becoming something of a "Marching Legend". Last year they entered twenty-five competitions and carried off scores of cups and plaques—in one particular week they marched over 300 kilometers. These young, tough, marchers are open to any challenge—but beware, they are a pretty formidable team.

Standing left to right: Stuffz Ingo Presse (G.E.A.), Signalman Phil Boddis, Signalman Pete Jones-Ward, Sergeant Jeff Williams, Corporal Deith Roythorne, Corporal Al Finden, Gefr Wilf Morena (G.E.A.), Sergeant Bill Smith

Sitting left to right: Corporal Mick Read, Signalman Jock Lyons, Signalman Dave Dean, Signalman Charlie Lynch, Lance-Corporal Brummy Baugh, Corporal Trev Hawkins

The 'Maastricht' Marching Team entered for 25 competitions in 1969 and have almost filled a silver cabinet with cups and plaques; covering in one particular week 300 kilometres.

Old Soldiers never die—they just get promoted

Congratulations to **Captain Frank Richardson,** who can now put (Q.M.) before his name. There are few, if any, who cannot say "well done and well deserved." Frank is off to 24th Signal Regiment in the near future, having spent the last week studying the Pay and Pensions Manual.

The 'Hairies'

or Gentlemen of Line Section, by Sergeant Pat Toovey

Our section, though the smallest, is the most important and hardest-working in AFCENT. Without us AFCENT could not function. We are in Tech Troop, which is commanded by **Major (T.O.T.) Julian Jackson.** There are only ten of us: **Corporals Peach, Vaughan, Read and Stalgis, Lance-Corporal Baugh, Signalman Harris** and two Germans, **OG Irmscher** and **OG Giera** (who can buy their own WIRE if they want to read this). This team last month, on Exercise 'Lion,' laid approximately 20,000 metres of cable and installed 300 telephones. We must have done a good job, because except for normal maintenance, we did very little work during the exercise. We amazed the O.C., **Major Bill Morgan** and the T.O.T., **Major Julian Jackson,** by dismantling, checking and repacking the whole show in four days.

Line Section, AFCENT, wish all hairies, wherever they are, a happy 1970, without too many blisters.

A Relief all round to learn that our Orderly Room Seregant, **Pat Cole,** will be staying with us a little longer . . . he owes the office tea fund five weeks subs.

Conclusion—and the month's great thought!

Must end now, the S.S.M. has just walked in (21st January) and asked: "What will require organising for Guy Fawkes Night."

PROMOTIONS

Owing to the very lengthy list submitted by Officer-in-Charge Records, these will be found at the end of this WIRE.

Some Corps personalities in the small —
but high powered Engineering Troop of 259 Signal Squadron

CONTEMPLATION

(1) W.O.I. (F. of S.) Short (for once without hockey stick) and Corporal Harris contemplate the control system

DID IT GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE?

(2) Sergeants Ingleby and Gibson at play. The ball must be somewhere

PAPER, PAPER EVERY WHERE

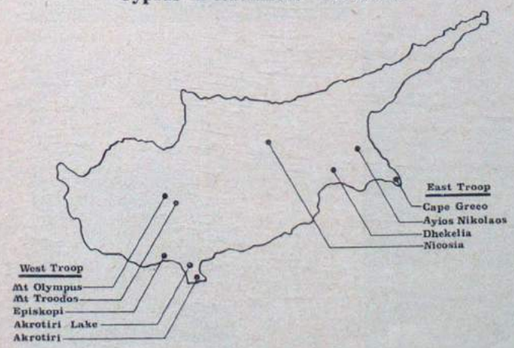
(3) Chief Systems Engineer Captain M. S. Davies. An Engineer's nightmare

SPORTSMAN

(4) Army (Cyprus) Rugby player—Sergeant Lowry

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

Cyprus Detachment Locations



IN our last notes we said that each Troop was to be featured. This month it is the turn of Engineering Troop based at Episkopi.

Engineering Troop is extremely small but high powered, consisting of the Chief Systems Engineer, **Captain M. S. Davies,** his assistant **W.O.I. (F.O.S.) E. Short** and **Sergeants Lowry, Gibson, Kelsall, Heath, Craine** and **Meaney,** the duty controllers in Engineering Control; **Sergeant Ingleby,** who runs the Engineering Troop workshop, and, last but not least is **Corporal Harris,** our statistic clerk cum-stand-in-controller. The main role of the Troop is the overall control of system engineering of the network and the day to day running of Cyprus Central Fault Control. Although we are small in numbers in Engineering Troop our representation in sporting circles is large. **Sergeants Lowry** and **Gibson** play rugby regularly for the Army Cyprus. **Sergeant Ingleby** runs our Squadron rugby team, **W.O.I. (F.O.S.) Short** is the Squadron hockey officer and **Sergeant Lowry** the Squadron football organiser. Rumour has it that the Cyprus Central Fault Control is to be renamed, Cyprus Central Sports Control.

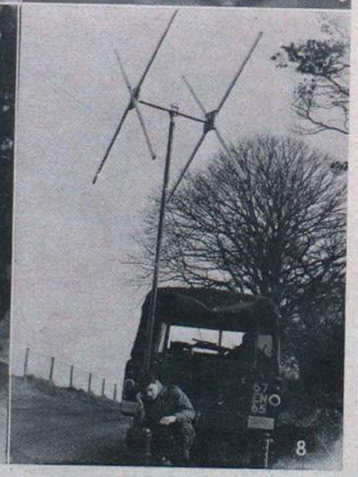
The Troop features in other fields too, **Sergeant Kelsall** is the mainstay of one of the islands most popular pop groups, 'The Phase IV' and **Sergeants Heath** and **Craine** can be seen festooned with camera equipment in all manner of strange places.

Congratulations to Corporal Hulme of our Nicosia detachment. **Corporal Hulme** is a keen sub-aqua diver. Recently he was diving off Cape Greco on a general exploration trip when he located a metal cannister with an attached parachute, in some 25 feet of water. Realising that this was possibly dangerous he reported his finding to the R.A.F. Operations Room at Nicosia who alerted the Dhekelia Area Range Safety Officer. **Corporal Hulme** was then asked to assist the recovery of the cannister on the following day. He did this by diving and lashing a cord to the parachute, and towing the cannister ashore. When the cannister was examined by the Range Safety Officer it was found to be a marine marker of a type used by the R.A.F. and contained phosphorous. The phosphorous was starting to leak from the cannister and the Range Safety Officer decided to remove it from the beach, where local fishermen were at work. It was moved to a nearby isolated spot and there destroyed, with explosives.

For his prompt action in reporting the find and his assistance in recovering it, **Corporal Hulme** was congratulated by the Commander Dhekelia Area.

233 Squadron take things in their stride

A photo report from Northern Ireland (see notes opposite)



1. Captain Len White, our Administrative Officer, puts on his "Bank Managers Look". 2. Sergeant "Nick" Nicoll (on loan from 22 Signal Regiment) makes out his communications report. 3. Lance-Corporal "Scottie" Scott searching boldly. 4. Mrs. Margaret Hooper, our typist, deciphering a draft. 5. Mrs. Audrey Shanks, our Chief Clerk (and an aid to internal recruiting, we think?). 6. Can you spot the Squadron-Sergeant Major's deliberate mistake? W.O.II Alan Turner shows Sergeants Tom Langley and Les Hedges the way. 7. Corporal Ted Beardsmore on shift. 8. Who said a "static Unit"? wonders Corporal Pete Lambert of Radio Troop

233 Signal Squadron, (Northern Ireland)

A growth of 300 per cent

ULSTER has been hitting the headlines in the daily Press and television fairly regularly during the past year. With the large troop reinforcement that occurred there was, inevitably, a large increase in communication requirements. So it was that by last September, this Squadron 'did a topsy' and 'just growed' to over 300 per cent of our original strength. To meet our immediate needs, men were sent from U.K., B.A.O.R. and beyond, usually for short tours of four or six months, and almost always at short notice. To all the units who 'helped us out' and to the men involved, we would like to thank you for all you did. We are now happy to say that the Squadron is almost entirely made up of three-year tour men who are settling in rapidly.

Welcome to Group Commander and C.R. Signals

As members of 2nd Signal Group, we take this opportunity of extending a belated welcome to our new Commander, **Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E.,** and wish him an enjoyable tour with the Group. We look forward to an early visit from him.

We are also responsible to C.R. Signals, Northern Ireland, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. MacF. MacGillivray,** for the provision of operational communications within Northern Ireland. To him also, we wish a happy and successful tour in Ulster.

Accommodation improves

The many soldiers who have been attached to us during recent months will be pleased to hear that our accommodation improves daily, and we no longer feel, and indeed look like unwanted squatters — or, more appropriate for Ireland, tinkers. The old tumbledown stable block, which was due to be pulled down last year has had a lot of attention recently; we even have a safe new staircase up to the Squadron Office! Our S.Q.M.S., **Staff Sergeant T. Balch,** has been seen (when he thought no one was looking) admiring the row upon row of new metal shelving in his stores.

Well done those D.R.'s and the W.R.A.C.

During the past year we have all had to keep going, and it is difficult to single out any individuals for mention in these notes. It would also be unfair, however, if we did not mention the D.R.'s and W.R.A.C. element.

Our D.R.'s never seem to stop. They take all sorts of jobs in their stride, from sudden 80-mile trips at midnight to putting radio cabins on the top of mountains, but more about that in our next contribution.

Our W.R.A.C. girls, who forever bring light into our lives, have supported us admirably in our time of need. In the Comcen they work with the men, whilst the switchboard operators have remained cheerful in spite of the extra hours and workload. We were sorry to lose **Sergeant Leslie Angliss** on posting to B.A.O.R. and hope that she has settled in. **Sergeant Robertson** (yet another Scot to add to the contingent) has just arrived and we hope her tour here will be a happy one.

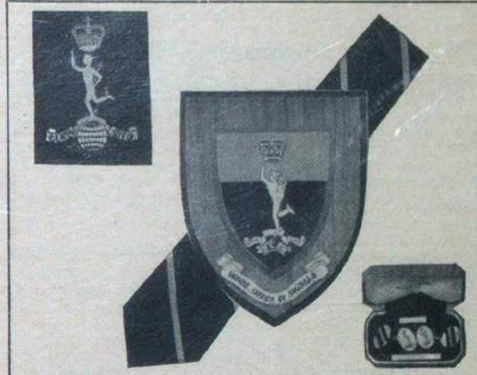
Varied interests

Our interests are developing rapidly. Our hockey team is in the Minor Units Hockey Competition and we hope for good things from them. We have a soccer team, moves are afoot to form a basketball team and our two unit-owned boats with outboard motors are used by the fishermen among us. We're toying with the idea of forming some sort of hobbies room, but that will have to wait until we find the right place.

Despite our commitments on communicating and our pastime activities we are also pressing ahead with our P.E. tests and range classifications. Whilst our results may not be up to Bisley standard we have not yet had anyone who has needed to fix bayonets and charge in order to hit the target.

We look forward to a visit by the Signal Officer in Chief during the coming month, when he intends to make a short visit to Northern Ireland.

Finally, our photographs show some aspects and people of the squadron. As you can see, we manage to keep cheerful.



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NATOCARS

241 Signal Squadron
(Western Command), Chester

GREETINGS from Chester, traditionally a military stronghold and one time home of The Depot Regiment and H.Q. A.E.R. Royal Signals, where the Corps still makes its presence felt in the shape of 241 Signal Squadron.

Small in numbers but quite an area to cover

Although small in numbers we manage to cover quite an area in the course of our varied duties which we carry out under the guidance of our O.C., **Major E. J. Buirski.**

Static Troop, consisting of **Sergeant Wilby** (have Pamphlet 2 will travel) and **Corporal Young,** manage to visit most school Cadet Forces during the course of the year and find this a most rewarding task as most of those with lads of school age will no doubt appreciate.

The Technicians, all three of them, under the direction of our latest arrival, **F.O.S. Sid Allen,** provide P.A. for almost all functions in the command where the Army is represented, and occasionally combine with Static Troop to put the whole show on the road for KAPE tours.

Last but not least the Squadron is responsible for a large number of static installations, including a Communications Centre at H.Q. Western Command and an S.W.S. Troop at Shrewsbury, under the command of **Major Oates** (come up and see us some time, the kettle's always on).

The 'Old and the bold'

Many older members of the Corps will, no doubt, remember **Miss S. E. 'Lyn' Pulford,** one time typist with the Depot Regiment before its move to the new enlarged premises, and now our very understanding Chief Clerk, and ex-Rats of '45 vintage cannot fail to remember **'Jumbo' Charlton,** now with the Post Office stores branch in Chester, and doyen of the local branch of the Association. Indeed, the Chester area is so well adorned by ex-members of the Corps that in future contributions to the WIRE we may well be able to supply answers to the well worn question, I wonder what happened to him . . . ?

Other recent arrivals in the area, although not actually posted to the Squadron are **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg** (our man at Command), and **W.O.I. Mick Hopewell,** who officiates as Garrison Sergeant Major, and has instilled new vigour into the Garrison Sergeants' Mess, in this connection we would like to say that there is no truth in the rumour that the Massed Bands of the Brigade of Guards have been retained to play at the next Mess Garden Party.

Junior enlistments during recent weeks have included to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Dickinson,** a daughter, and to **Corporal** and **Mrs. Young,** a son.

A new club

We are, at the time of writing, busy attempting to rectify the lack of canteen facilities in Saighton Camp by the opening of our club, 'The Gentleman's Rest,' and hope, at some future date, to be able to give an account of the festivities at the Grand Opening Night, if, that is, anyone can actually remember what happened.

A veritable whirlwind

Visitors in the month of February included **Lieutenant-General Sir Napier-Crookenden, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command, who proved to be a veritable whirlwind and certain members of his entourage who had thought they were over age managed to pass their 'Two Mile Bash' with ease during the lightning tour of Saighton Camp. The General managed to surprise us all with his knowledge of the art of communicating.

Only partially recovered from this visit we are now preparing for our annual inspection on the 5th March (B.B.C. and I.T.A. please note the revised date), so with duster in hand we bid you a signallers farewell.

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244 Signal Squadron
(Air Support)
Tangmere, Sussex

See much more—with 244

THE words of our new Squadron motto, "see much more with 244" have never been truer, as Troops and Detachments have sped off to B.A.O.R., Antigua, Northern Ireland and British Honduras. A seemingly endless stream of aeroplanes touch down briefly at Tangmere, load up and wing away; whilst the problems of movement are ever increasing, there is little problem with boredom—there just isn't time to be bored!

Christmas in the tropics is hardly an Englishman's ideal, but for 244 it became a reality when we took over the communications in Antigua for Christmas, 1969. Accommodation was particularly choice, being a renowned night club called 'The Bucket of Blood'; there were no pirates actually seen, but there seemed to be ample 'yo-ho-ho and bottles of rum!'

Local colour

The civilians of Cable and Wireless were particularly kind in inviting a number of soldiers to their homes for Christmas, for which we were most grateful.

Local colour was quickly absorbed to the extent that **Sergeant Smith,** of 'Alpha' Troop, was seen on New Year's Day, surrounded by empty beer cans attempting to produce the sounds of a steel band. He was unsuccessful.

Needless to say, swimming was a particularly pleasant pastime until **Signalman Davis** was seen doing a Johnny Weismuller to the shore and pointing behind him to a school of barracuda!

Not all the time was spent sampling the delights of the tropics and we are pleased to say that communications were kept at a high level.

Thanks to B.A.O.R. friends

Exercise 'January King' saw the Squadron deployed to B.A.O.R. by air and road and, amazingly enough, all met up at the same place. This exercise afforded us the opportunity to operate independently, to cook for ourselves, run our own canteen and maintain our own equipment and vehicles. Thanks to the many willing hands, the skills of **Sergeant Smith** (A.C.C.) and his cooks, **Corporal Harrison** and his canteen, and **Sergeant Lockwood** and his ever-present sense of humour, all went well.

We express our thanks to the many friends we made in B.A.O.R. and, in particular, we would like to thank 7th Signal Regiment, 21st Signal Regiment and **Captain (Q.M.) Joe McGlynn** for all their help. We were particularly happy to meet Joe, who is to be our new Admin. Officer in August; looking forward to seeing you soon, Joe.

ON THE JOB
Corporal Maher was busy radio operating in BAOR during Exercise "January King"

Getting mundane again

In spite of the frenzied overseas activities, life still keeps going at Tangmere, and the more mundane things of life, like the annual R.E.M.E. inspections are now upon us, accompanied by much muttering from the Foreman of Signals and M.T. Sergeant! Despite all this, we hope to survive.

Courses continue to take their toll, and we are very proud to announce that **Sergeant Wally Lockwood** obtained an 'A' on his Staff Sergeant's course; this in addition to a record of 100 per cent passes on all courses attended in the last six months.

Finally to sport, and inevitably soccer, with all good wishes to our Squadron team, who meet 223 Squadron from Winchester in the first round of the Royal Signals Cup on 16th February.

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O-31

PROMOTIONS

Owing to the very lengthy list submitted by Officer-in-Charge Records, these will be found at the end of this WIRE.

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

AFTER the rush of Christmas activities, January has proved to be a month of comparative routine and the inevitable rash of New Year resolutions.

Visits

The beginning of the month saw the visit of a three-man team from the Inspectorate of Establishments. As always, with a visit of this kind, there was an unspoken feeling of apprehension and foreboding . . . "who was going to be next for the chop?" Awful, and possibly exaggerated, rumours of drastic cuts preceded the team's visit, but welcome smiles were firmly fixed in place for their arrival on 16th January. We were still smiling four days later, at the end of the inspection, and, without giving too much away, it seems that no major changes from our proposals have been forecast; we may have gained in some departments.

Hot on the heels of the I. of E. team, we were visited by the Commander, British Forces, Near East, **Air-Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C.,** on 21st January. During his brief tour of the Squadron, the Air Marshal visited the Comcen and Radio Troop and showed great interest in their work, taking the opportunity to talk to as many of the soldiers (male and female) as time would allow.

Ski-ing, or pride comes before a fall

Private Rita Gawith, W.R.A.C., braved the snow and ice as the first member of the Squadron this season to attend a military ski course at the Troodos Leave Centre. Despite a few minor set-backs, such as falling off the ski-lift twice in succession, Rita reports that she is now able to travel some distance down the gentler slopes and still remain upright on her skis. However, she did have one quite spectacular tumble when her skis, demonstrating a will of their own, carried her over a rocky surface. Congratulating herself on her progress, she was soon to 'come a cropper' as, bouncing over a rock, she landed face down in the snow, a tangle of arms, legs and skis. Comment from **Private Gawith:** "It was great fun, but I've discovered muscles I never knew existed before."

Not to be outdone, **Signalman Mick Harris** has suddenly remembered that he has skied before, and has 'volunteered' to uphold the honour of Radio Troop on the Mount Olympus snow slopes. Accordingly, we have booked his transport, warned our men on the mountain of his imminent arrival, and sent an urgent signal to the met. office to stop the current thaw!

Arrivals and Departures

This month we welcomed to the Squadron **Corporal Cliff Hitchcock** and **Corporal Charlie Simpson.**

Our good wishes go with the following who have been posted: **Sergeant Alan Bott** to 5 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron; **Sergeant Chris Jefford-Horn** to School of Signals; **Corporal Alan De La Haye** to 21st Signal Regiment; and **Corporal David Bennett** to the School of Signals.

610 Signal Troop (C & E), Donnington

FIRSTLY, apologies to any ex-Troop member who may have been keeping an eye open for news of or from us but being so small a Troop it takes quite a while to accumulate sufficient news to go to print.

However, since our last notes to THE WIRE we have welcomed our new O.C., **Captain (T.O.T.) I. J. Rose,** who quickly grasped the little idiosyncrasies of this place, and who has since had a five-week 'holiday' (said reservedly) on a T.O.T. refresher course at the 'School,' and was one of the unfortunates during the latest 'flu epidemic, having had a three-week bout.

Those of you who remember **Lance-Corporal (Maurice) Hodgson,** our radio technician, may be surprised to know that he has opted out of the Army, and is now PC 1127 of the Army Department Constabulary, stationed at, of all places, Donnington. He and his wife, **Christine,** are now living in the police quarters in Donnington Way, and are settling down well to a sort of civilian life. We still get the occasional visit from him when he is on his rounds, patrolling the depot.

THE DONNINGTON PERSONALITIES
Mention 610 Signal Troop and the names of these Corps men (grouped with their O.C. Captain (T.O.T.) I. J. Rose), spring to mind
Standing from left to right: Sergeant Arthur Jones, W.O.I. (Y. of S.), Jimmy Drugan
Kneeling: Sergeant K. H. (Ron) Kent and Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) John Field

Sergeant Arthur Jones has managed (gosh knows how) to get away with anything he may have done wrong in the past, and has recently been presented with his L.S. & G.C. for 18 years of possible but undetected crime by the G.O.C. West Midland District, **Major-General W. G. S. Mills, C.B.E.,** and being in the Mess gave added strength to 'any excuse for a booze up.'

The Troop has now moved into the old S.I.D. room in building two, where we are all in one big room, with offices built in. It's a lot warmer and is somewhat easier to manage.

Arrivals and departures, other than **Lance-Corporal Hodgson.** The latest arrival is **Corporal (Les) Cooney),** an able radio technician; unfortunately he will only be with the Troop until demob in July/August. He has settled in well with the lads and is the only unmarried member of the Troop. **Lance-Corporal (Stevie) Stevenson** and **Signalman (Mal) Britton** went off on their BIII-BII upgrading course, and finished in November with passes, as did **Signalman (Geordie) Skelly** earlier in the year. He is now looking for his BI, having obtained quite good marks on his BII. **Stevie** has now left us for the colleens of Northern Ireland, being posted to 39 Brigade, so our sports efforts will suffer this year.

Our F. of S., **Staff Sergeant John Field,** being very keen on badminton, was entered in the recent Western Command Championships, partnering firstly his wife, Peggy, and then members of the R.E. and R.A.O.C. On each occasion they were well and truly thrashed, but only by seeded players. The Command No. 2 seed gave them the first of the thrashings. But, with tongue in cheek, John says of the defeats, "never mind, it's all good experience," and so he goes on with ever more practice.

In the next notes to THE WIRE we hope to have a photograph of the whole Troop, but it's a case of getting them all together during out-of-work hours, as we are not allowed to have cameras inside the Depot.

That's all for this time.

644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP)
30th Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 667

Odd jottings

SINCE our last WIRE entry, 644 Troop has a new Troop Commander, namely **Captain J. Cox,** and a newer Radio Officer, **Lieutenant J. Fiskel,** fresh from a Troop Commanders' course at the School of Signals. Since his arrival, however, **Captain Cox** has already bid farewell to one set of big ends and a front axle, and as things go in threes, nobody in the Troop is man enough to 'cabbie' with him.

The telecommunications workshop are going into the Crocodile clip business, having indented to C.O.D. for 80 crocodile clips, and not realising the unit of issue was bags of 100, we now have 7,920 unwanted clips. Any reasonable offer will be considered, contact **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hill.**

The soccer front has brought a mixed bag of results. In the Chief Signal Officers Six-a-side cup, where a goal counts as four points, we can say we were only beaten by the odd goal in both our matches so far, against the Swedes and the Irish, but are assured of greater things to come. After all, we did beat the American Embassy by eight goals to three in an eleven-a-side competition — nuf sed!

The Mercury Club, our home from home, continues to make an embarrassing profit. A table football league is currently running, organised by **Corporal Jan Taylor,** and the league leaders to date, **Mick Welburn** and **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Perry,** are proving that you don't need a field to have a successful Troop soccer team.

On the work front, it is rumoured that if **Lieutenant Fiskel** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hill** don't manage to engineer a V.H.F. link from Zyyi to Mt. Olympus, a detachment of linesmen with shovels are to be dispatched to 'shift' the mountain range between them — 'what devotion to duty!'

Presentation of the L.S. & G.C. to W.O.II (Y. of S.) P. C. 'Chippy' Wood

On Friday, 16th January, a Medal parade for the Britcon Staff of H.Q. UNFICYP was held at Nicosia. During the parade, a sight of relief was exhaled from **W.O.II. (Y. of S.) 'Chippy' Wood,** having passed the 18 years undetected mark, and he was promptly presented with his L.S. & G.C., together with his U.N. Peace Keeping medal, by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barker Wyatt, M.B.E., R.E.**

On the same parade U.N. medals were presented to: **Corporal 'Paddy' O'Shea, Corporal John Standing, Lance-Corporal Gordon Mitchell, Signalman Bill Barlow, Signalman Don Hill, Signalman 'Jock the Gob' Howden, Signalman Jock' Hogg, Signalman 'Geordie' Miller, Signalman Phil Perry, Signalman Hay Paton.**

VISIT OF FORCE COMMANDER TO SERGEANTS' MESS
Major-General D. Prem Chand seen chatting with members of 644 Troop. *Left to right:* Staff-Sergeant Ted Johnson, the Force Commander, Sergeant 'Chalky' White, Sergeant Brian Mallett, Sergeant 'Tam' Bowman

34th (Northern) Sig. Regt. (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

A little history . . . .

ON 25th March, 1861, a man called **William Child,** who was a surgeon-dentist and insurance agent in Leeds, was appointed Captain of the West Riding Engineer Volunteers and a new Volunteer unit was born. In six days **Captain Child** had enrolled one hundred men; in ten weeks, three hundred; in fifteen weeks, five hundred; in July the establishment was increased to six companies and **William Child** was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. He commanded that Regiment for 28 years.

The first link of the unit with the Signal service was in 1904 when a telegraph section of 101 all ranks was formed. After the 1914-18 war, the Regiment changed its title to 49th (West Riding) Divisional Signals. In 1967 the Regiment became 49th (West Riding) Signal Squadron (V).

. . . . of the Volunteers . . . .

One of **William Child's** first recruits was **George Burley,** who joined on 2nd April, 1861. He worked hard and became the Quarter Master Sergeant. In 1891 he was commissioned as Quartermaster and he died suddenly in 1895 while still serving. Photographs show him to be an imposing Victorian gentleman, with a full, bushy beard and a keen, Quartermaster eye. All his equipment, uniforms and his personal papers and letters were packed into his 'box' and remained virtually untouched for 75 years.

. . . . goes to the Museum

Major Jim Malcolm, the Volunteer O.C. of 49th Squadron, discovered by chance that **Burley's** effects were to be auctioned, and with money given by the Regiment and the Trustees of 49th (Yorkshire) Signals, bought the effects. He suggested that we should present them to the Royal Signals Museum, and so, during the Royal Signals T.A.V.R. study period at Blandford Camp, the presentation was made. The collection is well worth seeing and consists, not only of ceremonial uniform and headdress, but of an issue nightshirt, binoculars, photographs and military and personal papers of that period.

If you happen to be passing, have a look at it.

HE WAS "AN IMPOSING VICTORIAN GENTLEMEN, WITH A FULL BUSHY BEARD AND A KEEN QUARTERMASTER EYE"
Brigadier John Cubberley accepts Quartermaster Burley's effects from Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Evans. Major Jim Malcolm, who discovered the collection, looks on

Corps Eleven show promising form

Royal Engineers 2; Corps 5 (on 20th January)

On a heavy greasy pitch the Corps gained an easy away victory. The Engineers led at half-time by the only goal scored but after the interval the Corps equalised and thereafter dominated the play. Scorers for the Corps: **Signalman Duffy** (216 Signal Squadron (2), **Sergeant Dolby** (A.A.C. Harrogate) (2) and **Corporal Nelson** (Captain) (8th Signal Regiment).

Royal Artillery 2; Corps 3 (on 21st January)

The following day the Corps had another away win against Royal Artillery despite a not too convincing display. After suffering a heavy defeat by REME, the Artillery played a furious and determined first-half and the Corps side never really settled down. The second-half saw the Corps clinch matters by two goals from **Corporal Nelson** — one from a penalty — and one from **Sergeant Smurthwaite** (14th Signal Regiment).

Corps 1; REME 2 (on 23rd January)

The Corps eleven showed some improved form against REME, who fielded a very strong side, which included six current Army players. With the wind and slope in their favour the visitors kept under great pressure throughout the first-half but good play by the Corps defence enabled the Corps to change ends only a goal in arrears. Rough tackling and what was considered provocative play by REME was a feature of the second-half and the visitors were able to win the match by the odd goal in three.

Newcastle University 4; Corps 4 (on 28th January)

The Corps had to make several changes and fielded a weakened side against the University who are the joint holders of the University Athletics Union Championship. For the fourth successive time the Corps were a goal down at the interval. Twenty minutes before the end the Corps were leading 4-2 but the Corps defence was hard put to it to hold the heavy pressure of the University forwards who managed to equalise. Scorers for the Corps: **Signalman Roberts** (10th Signal Regiment) (2), **Corporal Nelson** and **Signalman Russell** (8th Signal (Regiment).

2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment win Semi-Final of 2 Div. Soccer Cup

THE Regimental football team, captained by **Lance-Corporal Peter Ferns** travelled to Berlin recently to play 2 R.R.F. in a very important Army Cup match. The team, whilst warming up, watched anxiously as a team of labourers with bulldozers cleared the snow from the Olympic Stadium pitch. Their efforts were successful and we lined up as follows: **Signalman Innes; Lance-Corporal Mulraine** and **Signalman Elgar; Corporal Bootham, Corporal Braddon** and **Lance-Corporal Andrews; Signalman Smith, Lance-Corporal Ferns, Lance-Corporal Farrant, Lance-Corporal Jones** and **Signalman Paterson.**

Our team, under very tricky conditions, gave an exciting display of first-class football and eventually won 6—3, the goal-scorers being **Lance-Corporal Les Farrant** (3), **Lance-Corporal Bobby Jones, Signalman Tommy Smith** and **Lance-Corporal**

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN

COPY OF THE WIRE!

2 DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT FOOTBALL TEAM

Top row: Corporal (Biddy) Braddon, Lance-Corporal (Muggy) Mulraine, Signalman (Fatty) Innes, Lance-Corporal (Les) Farrant, Signalman (Scouse) Smith, Signalman (Davey) Elgar

Bottom row: Corporal (Boom-boom) Boothman, Lance-Corporal Ferns (Captain), Lance-Corporal (Bobby) Jones, Signalman (Wee-Pat) Patterson, Lance-Corporal (Andy) Andrews, Signalman Dodds and Signalman Carr

Peter Ferns. While being very reluctant to pick out any individuals from a magnificent team effort, special mention must be made of goalkeeper **Signalman Brian Innes** for another outstanding performance; our No. 9, **Lance-Corporal Les Farrant,** who scored three fine goals, and **Lance-Corporal Bobby Jones,** who gave a fine performance of inside-forward play.

Many thanks to C.S.O., Berlin, **Lieutenant-Colonel K. E. Haycock** and everyone in 299 (Berlin) Squadron for coming along and supporting us so strongly. **Second-Lieutenant Robin Burrows** had a hard time rounding up the team from all the night spots in time to catch the military train, at 07.30 hours, back to Bünde. **Major Colin Bunce** and the T.O.T., **Captain Ken Rutter** had a more leisurely drive back by SDS, with **Corporal Dave Austin,** just in time for the Three Bells Christmas party.

We are now looking forward to the Divisional final, in which we play 10th Regiment, R.C.T., from Bielefeld. We start this game very much as underdogs, but with a Berlin-type performance, we feel we can go forward to the B.A.O.R. semi-final.

2nd DIVISION SIGNAL REGIMENT CANOE CLUB

Even before the snow is off the ground and with the ice just melting, the Canoe Club has started off the season with a proverbial splash!

After the fantastic successes of 1969 we are looking forward to yet another exciting season which will include all the roughest and toughest rivers in Europe.

We now have a permanent camera man so stand by for a news flash next month.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH
Royal Signals Association

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Masonic Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, on Saturday, 2nd May, at 7.30 for 8 p.m.

All enquiries to **Mr. A. V. Ient,** 111, Gloucester Road, Aldershot. Tel.: Aldershot 26358.

Manchester Branch hold very successful Silver Jubilee Dinner and Dance

Four generations of Signals among 150 present

AT THE MANCHESTER BRANCH DINNER

Committee members photographed with principal guests:

Standing left to right: Mr. Larkin, Mr. Harrison, Gordon Jones, Peter Lamb, Major Metcalfe (33rd Signal Regiment)

Sitting left to right: Mr. Drinkwater, Brigadier Hobson (General Secretary R.S.A.), Mr. Young (Branch Chairman), Brigadier Tucker (Chairman R.S.A.), Lynda Jones, Peter Griffin

A very happy evening was recently enjoyed by about 150 members and wives at the Mersey Hotel, Manchester, on the above occasion.

The Branch were very happy to have as guests **Brigadier Tucker** and **Brigadier Hobson** from Association H.Q., also **Major Metcalfe,** representing the Commanding Officer of 33rd Signal Regiment (V).

Major Metcalfe, on behalf of the guests, proposed the toast of the branch and wished it every success in the coming year. The Chairman, **Mr. H. Young,** in reply, pointed out that there were four generations of Signals represented—Royal Engineers, present branch members, serving members, and also two boy cadets—which was probably a record for any one branch. He also warmly welcomed friends from Glossop and Droylesden, as well as **Signalman Gavey,** home on leave from the Persian Gulf. He was pleased to inform **Brigadier Tucker** that the policy of Association H.Q. to encourage the younger generation had born very fruitful results in Manchester. As an example, this dinner and dance was organised by a small sub-committee of three of the younger members, **Lance-Corporals Jones** and **Lamb** and **Private Lynda Jones** of the W.R.A.C. (V). The new look that Manchester was trying to achieve in the branch was first started by the last Secretary, **Mr. Mc Williams,** who is now in Australia. Whilst the social side was strong, there was also a strong sub-committee who did nothing else but look after cases of need and sickness. Speaking for himself, he said he felt proud to have the honour of being the Chairman for the Jubilee Year and most proud of the branch. He little thought that when a few met together 25 years ago to start it that it would be the very flourishing branch it was today. Looking to the future, they would hand on the torch of brotherhood and friendship to those who came after, with the knowledge that the branch was definitely here to stay.

Following the dinner, dancing went on, with carbaret, until midnight, and everyone enjoyed an excellent evening.

Any serving member of the Corps on leave in Manchester is more than welcome at the branch meeting place on Thursday nights at the T.A. Centre, Norman Road, Rusholme.

York Branch Annual Dinner

Hon. Secretary: J. E. Newton, Esq., 59 Water Lane, York.

[Courtesy: Bill Hadley, Hemingbrough

ENJOYING A DRINK BEFORE DINNER

From left to right: Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, C.S.O. Northern Command and president of the branch; Major J. W. Fyfe, O.C. 240 Signal Squadron; Miss Mollie Hyde Parker, Chief Welfare Officer, Royal Signals Association; Mrs. Fyfe; Brigadier W. G. Tucker national chairman; Mrs. Brice and Mr. J. Newton, secretary York branch Royal Signals Association, enjoying a drink before the dinner

With the latest equipment and good conditions of service, the spirit of the modern Corps was high, and former members could be proud of their successors, said Brigadier W. G. Tucker, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, at the annual dinner of the York branch at the Signals Club, Wenlock Terrace, York, held on 24th January.

Brigadier Tucker was proposing the toast of the Corps, and the dinner was one of the earlier events in the Royal Signals' Golden Jubilee year. During the year there would be two major reunions, at Catterick and at Blandford, the modern 'homes' of the Corps.

"Former members of the Corps," said **Brigadier Tucker,** "had laid sound foundations on which the modern organisation had been firmly built, and the modern Corps was as good as—even better—than any other arm of the Service."

Colonel B. R. M. Hayles, Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command and President of the York Branch of the Association, responded, and proposed 'The Association.'

Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Secretary of the Association, proposed 'The York Branch,' which, he said, had taken a leading role in many events, including the formation of the Council of the Service Associations, the presentation of trumpets to the Corps Boys' Band and the York Festival of Remembrance.

The resurgence of interest in the branch, which was one of the few to have its own club, was due to the enthusiasm of its officers, and to its keen interest in welfare matters. **Mr. E. A. Leavesley,** Branch Chairman, presided and proposed the Loyal Toast.

Press representation at the dinner provided a unique feature, in as much as both photographer (ex-**W.O.II Bill Hadley**) and reporter (ex-**Corporal J. P. Wood**) were former members of the Corps, **Corporal Wood** having been local correspondent for THE WIRE way back in 1940, whilst at No. 3 G.T.T. Battalion at Huddersfield.

Promotions

Regimental Duty Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Green, B. G.		1540	2810
	A/W.O.I	Wilson, M. E.		1550	2910
	A/W.O.I	Cave, A. E. W.		1580	2960
	A/W.O.I	Rumsey, D. H. M.		1600	2800
	A/W.O.I	Cage, H. W.		1610	2760
	A/W.O.I	Orr, F. M.		1620	3440
	A/W.O.I	Turner, B.		1630	3060
	A/W.O.I	Robinson, E.		1640	3310
	A/W.O.I	Meyer, R. C.		1650	2920
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Block, R. H.		5030	3540
	A/W.O.II	Livermore, D.		5040	3044
	S Sgt.	Merry, L. J. H.		5050	4560
	S Sgt.	O'Brien, F. C.		5060	4530
	A/W.O.II	Aldous, R. W.		5070	3010
	A/W.O.II	Nock, C.		5080	690
	A/W.O.II	Courtenay, C. J.		5090	1220
	S Sgt.	Nelson, S.		5100	4780
	S Sgt.	Hill, B. P.		5110	4670
	A/W.O.II	Wheeler, W. C.		5120	4680
	S Sgt.	Kennington, M.		5130	4860
	A/W.O.II	Curtis, D. W.		5140	3330
	S Sgt.	Meeson, D. T.		5150	4700
	S Sgt.	Birtles, H.		5160	5130

Foreman of Signals Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Howie, J. N.		2130	1750	
	S Sgt.	Bateman, T. R.		2140	1760	
	S Sgt.	Holland, E.		2150	1770	
	S Sgt.	Hill, T. G.		2160	1780	
	S Sgt.	Fordom, G. W.		2170	1790	
	S Sgt.	Webb, C. G.		2180	1800	
	S Sgt.	Knox, J. D.		2190	1810	
	S Sgt.	Bumphrey, C. B.		2200	1820	
	S Sgt.	Thornbury, M. D.		2210	1830	
	S Sgt.	Owen, R. K.		2220	1840	
	S Sgt.	Saunders, R. C.		2230	1850	
	S Sgt.	Carey, J. R.		2240	1860	
	S Sgt.	Wilkins, J. A.		2250	1870	
	S Sgt.	Langford, M.		2260	1880	
	S Sgt.	Cook, P. A.		2270	1890	
	S Sgt.	Pankhurst, M. J. S.		2280	1900	
	S Sgt.	Jackson, D. L.		2290	1905	
	S Sgt.	Pemberton, K. S.		2300	1950	
	S Sgt.	Foulds, M. C.		2310	1990	
	S Sgt.	Goodman, R.		2320	2000	
	S Sgt.	Morris, J.		2330	2010	
	S Sgt.	Thompson, C. A.		2340	2020	
	S Sgt.	Edgington, J. E.		2350	2040	
	S Sgt.	Cook, A. J.		2360	2050	
	S Sgt.	Morris, R.		2370	2060	
	S Sgt.	Geldard, G.		2380	2070	

Supervisor (Radio Roll)

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Gayther, J. F.	80	60	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Rosson, J. B.	90	100	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Cooper, A.	100	130	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Neal, T. B.	110	150	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Cooper, T. B.	120	210	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Wells, R. W.	130	220	(S. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Eagle, G. G.	140	350	(S. Op.)	

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Wright, H. E.	680	866	
	A/W.O.I	Brown, P.	690	1030	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Coole, L. A.	1570	1770	
	A/W.O.II	Harrison, M.	1580	1182	
	S Sgt.	McBeath, A.	1590	1420	
	S Sgt.	Rawlins, G. E.	1600	1350	

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Tunmore, D. G.	2140	280	(C. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Young, A.	2150	440	(Tg. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Beer, P. J. A.	2160	520	(Tg. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Donnelly, W. J.	2170	680	(Tg. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Allen, D.	2180	760	(C. Op.)	
	Sgt.	Sharp, P.	2190	560	(S. Op.)	
	Cpl.	Sydney, J. C.	2200	150	(Tg. Op.)	
	Cpl.	Fisher, R. C.	2210	1690	(Comen Op.)	

Chief Clerks Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Ellen, D. G.	520	840	
	A/W.O.I	Feber, H. L. H.	530	1000	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Walker, D.	1160	1300	
	A/W.O.II	Worrall, J. T.	1170	1310	
	A/W.O.II	Williams, B. K.	1180	1340	
	A/W.O.II	Byrne, J. P.	1190	1420	
	A/W.O.II	Brodie, R. C.	1200	1410	
	A/W.O.II	Studd, P. D.	1210	1230	
	S Sgt.	Rose, A. G.	1220	1360	
	A/W.O.II	McEwan, M. M.	1230	1270	
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Shepherd, G.	1520	170	
	Sgt.	Suett, R. L.	1530	160	
	A/S Sgt.	Hayward, B. J.	1540	140	
	A/S Sgt.	White, M. A.	1550	150	
	A/S Sgt.	Connery, D.	1560	190	
	A/S Sgt.	Bunting, P. J.	1570	220	
	A/S Sgt.	Derrich, K. P.	1580	290	
	A/S Sgt.	Berry, D. S.	1590	330	
	Sgt.	Lyons, J.	1600	430	
	A/S Sgt.	McCluskey, D. L.	1610	380	
	A/S Sgt.	Burgess, R. P.	1620	350	
	A/S Sgt.	Hargreaves, S.	1630	300	

Technical Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To Sgt.	Cpl.	Young, J. C.		7242	12900
	Cpl.	Briggs, D. N.		7649	13976
	Cpl.	Wilmot, M. K.		7680	13589
	Cpl.	Chapman, R. E.		7710	15186
	Cpl.	Dale, M. J.		7871	14917
	Cpl.	Taylor, J. E.		7873	15430
	Cpl.	Williams, G. J.		7939	15102
	Cpl.	Douglas, B. N.		7941	13641
	Cpl.	Smith, F. M.		7981	13360
	Cpl.	Merchant, D. W.		7984	14320
	Cpl.	Coulson, R. N.		7996	14410
	Cpl.	Prior, M. W. F.		8006	12697
	Cpl.	Sinclair, P. A.		8011	13718
	Cpl.	French, M. H.		8030	13532
	Cpl.	O'Hare, B.		8445	15222
	Cpl.	Olive, M. S.		8700	14669
	Cpl.	Laing, D. F. R.		8740	14760
	Cpl.	Smith, J.		8760	14291
	Cpl.	Browning, M. W.		8765	14438
	Cpl.	Goldthorpe, A. H.		8770	15530
	Cpl.	Trippier, D.		8800	13942
	Cpl.	Hall, J. S.		8870	14496
	Cpl.	Birch, W.		8880	15350
	Cpl.	Hammett, P.		8910	13646
	Cpl.	Clement, G.		8916	13880
	Cpl.	Downie, P. A.		8917	13448
	Cpl.	Porter, R.		8918	13658
	Cpl.	Falconer, W.		8925	14080
	Cpl.	Baker, R. J.		8975	13970
	Cpl.	Scott, R. I.		9055	13943
	Cpl.	McGovern, J. P.		9075	14018
	Cpl.	Wharton, G. H.		9080	13835
	Cpl.	Vince, P. B.		9090	15551
	Cpl.	Hope, D. R.		9095	15904
	Cpl.	Pegg, N.		9096	14755
	Cpl.	Allison, B. D.		9100	14490
	Cpl.	Craggs, G.		9101	16111
	Cpl.	Bevis, M. L.		9102	15085
	Cpl.	Priestley, C. L.		9105	14266
	Cpl.	Dodson, T. B.		9145	14500
	Cpl.	Bannister, G. A.		9148	15204
	Cpl.	Gallagher, R. H.		9150	13908
	Cpl.	Gibson, S.		9155	14644
	Cpl.	Hayward, V. R.		9160	14115
	Cpl.	Jennings, N.		9162	14594
	Cpl.	Staples, M. J.		9165	13907
	Cpl.	Toller, D. C.		9190	13974
	Cpl.	Wallace, J. R.		9195	13950
	Cpl.	Araniello, P. A.		9200	14726
	Cpl.	Haselden, H. S.		9205	15101
	Cpl.	Patton, N.		9275	14920
	Cpl.	Beer, E. C.		9280	12280
	Cpl.	Hetherington, H.		9285	12235
	Cpl.	Blair, I.		9287	14475
	Cpl.	Wiggins, G. T.		9290	14025
	Cpl.	McCall, S.		9291	15553
	Cpl.	Horner, R.		9295	13399
	Cpl.	Smith, P. M.		9296	15601
	Cpl.	Airlie, W. O.		9300	14470
	Cpl.	Best, M. J.		9305	14592
	Cpl.	Sharp, G. J.		9310	13635
	Cpl.	Brazil, P. H.		9320	14753
	Cpl.	Duncan, W.		9325	14090

Special Operator Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No
To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Baker, A. G.		600	200
	A/Sgt.	Downie, G. W.		690	150
	A/Sgt.	Kelly, J.		700	310

Telegraph Operator Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To Sgt.	Cpl.	Scott, J. E. S.		860	500
	Cpl.	Williams, P. G.		870	1020
	Cpl.	Dunbar, D. A.		880	510
	A/Sgt.	Forster, P. S.		890	480
	Cpl.	Puttock, G. W.		900	940
	Cpl.	Waterston, J. D.		910	1630
	Cpl.	Adam, J.		920	950
	Cpl.	Long, M. J.		930	80
	A/Sgt.	Kellett, E. J. P.		940	190
	A/Sgt.	Clarke, W. E.		950	1120
	A/Sgt.	Georgeson, R. S. G.		960	430
	A/Sgt.	Skinner, P. J.		970	640
	Cpl.	Gilchrist, D. I.		980	1500
	Cpl.	Garrehy, A.		990	240
	A/Sgt.	Lamont, D.		1000	70
	A/Sgt.	Pond, R. G.		1010	810
	Cpl.	Boag, A. W.		1020	800
	A/Sgt.	Parker, A. G.		1030	330

Cipher Operator Roll

				Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To Sgt.	Cpl.	Nichols, J. T.		810	610
	A/Sgt.	Marsden, W.		820	30
	Cpl.	Collison, J.		830	210
	Cpl.	Rice, B. A.		840	640
	Cpl.	Buckley, R. I.		850	670

Electrician Drivers Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Bowman, J. D.	290	60	
	A/Sgt.	Parker, D. R.	310	130	
	A/Sgt.	Easton, A.	320	80	

Lineman Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Sells, J. H.	1100	530	
	A/Sgt.	Henderson, J. D.	1110	550	

Radio Operator Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Robinson, P. D.	1830	1120	
	A/Sgt.	Chisholm, R. C. W.	1840	710	
	Cpl.	King, K. J. O.	1850	150	
	Cpl.	Spink, J.	1860	480	
	Cpl.	Harris, L.	1870	660	

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Batley, J. A.	7865	7810	(Tech.)

Communications Centre Operator Roll

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Walker, W.	994		Re-joined from Res.

Supervisor (Radio) Roll

To W.O.II	W.O.II	Riddell, A. G.	50	2780	(Rd.)
	W.O.II	Elliott, N. C.	60	3370	(Rd.)
	W.O.II	Motion, W.	80	3900	(Rd.)
	W.O.II	Searle, F. P.	130	4720	(Rd.)
To S Sgt.	S Sgt.	Smith, P. J.	70	5790	(Rd.)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

W.O.I 900 960 990 1130
W.O.II 810 1020 1080 1230 1390 1990 2560 2930 3140
3190 4190 4230 4280 4480
S Sgt. 160 260 420 570 3014 4060 4980

Foreman of Signals Roll

W.O.I 1140 1180 1170
W.O.II 1420 1890 1940

Yeoman of Signals Roll

W.O.I 340 470 510 580
W.O.II 1070 1140
S Sgt. 1440

Chief Clerks Roll

W.O.I 380 420
W.O.II 890 990
S Sgt. 1400

Technicians Roll

W.O.II 670 720
Sgt. 1220 3120 4930 5010 5240 5640 5755 5800 5888
5895 5918 5935 5950 5985 6025 6070 6205 6207
6220 6290 6420 6435 6510 6517 6735 7235 7575

Special Operator Roll

Sgt. 460

Telegraph Operator Roll

Sgt. 330 450 500 540 700 830

Clerk Draughtsman Roll

Sgt. 90 180 470

Cipher Operator Roll

Sgt. 60 120 410 790

Communication Centre Roll

Sgt. 90 200 270 290 580 930

Driver Royal Signals Roll

Sgt. 20 120 390 800

Electrician Drivers Roll

Sgt. 10

Lineman Roll

Sgt. 140 310

Radio Operator Roll

Sgt. 90 120 1140

Radio Relayman Roll

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
Sgt.	10	40		

Regimental Duty Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Thomas, A. J.	1660	3280	
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Prees, J. V.	5170	5120	
	A/W.O.II	Binks, C.	5180	5170	
	S Sgt.	Daniels, D. R.	5190	5106	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Mawcais, J. S.	5950	200	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	McKenzie, D.	5960	190	(C. op.)
	Sgt.	Brudenall, F. C.	5990	380	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Leiper, G. A.	6000	40	(C. op.)
	Sgt.	Fernie, P. J.	6010	90	(R Op.)
	Sgt.	McElvogue, J. J.	6020	150	(R. op.)
	Sgt.	Barber, R. W. J.	6040	50	(ED)
	Sgt.	Wilkinson, F.	6060	60	(Tg. op.)
	Sgt.	Wesley, J. A.	6090	140	(S. op.)

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Kreckeler, K. R.	720	1000	
To W.O.II	S/Sgt.	Greenhill, W. E.	1610	1610	

Chief Clerks Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Griffiths, J. D.	540	960	
	A/W.O.I	Henry, D.	550	950	

Technicians Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Ingram, J. W.	8008	14311	
	Cpl.	Perrin, B. F.	8810	13659	
	Cpl.	Cotterill, D. P.	9078	14916	
	Cpl.	Diamond, D. H.	9152	14008	
	Cpl.	Taylor, L. S.	9315	14464	
	Cpl.	Peters, E. R.	9335	14585	
	Cpl.	Harrison, S.	9398	14223	
	Cpl.	Edwards, B. J.	9399	14256	

Special Operator Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Feldon, A.	620	830	
	A/Sgt.	Smith, D. D.	640	550	
	A/Sgt.	Wills, D.	650	810	
	A/Sgt.	Good, R. J.	660	780	
	Cpl.	Lowans, B. D.	670	500	
	Cpl.	Height, M. R.	680	110	

Telegraph Operator Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Walder, J. S.	1060	980	

Clerk/Draughtsman Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Jeffery, L. A.	650	320	
	A/Sgt.	Unwin, B.	660	640	
	A/Sgt.	Cheetham, C.	670	870	
	A/Sgt.	Smith, J. K.	680	880	
	Cpl.	Hutchman, E.	690	270	
	A/Sgt.	Martin, J. W. H.	700	510	
	A/Sgt.	Sheldon, R. J.	710	550	
	A/Sgt.	Percival, P.	720	790	
	A/Sgt.	Townsend, R.	730	280	
	A/Sgt.	Parsons, R. S.	740	300	
	A/Sgt.	Symonds, E. P.	750	150	
	A/Sgt.	Wilkinson, L.	760	850	
	A/Sgt.	Clark, G.	770	820	
	A/Sgt.	Ryder, I K.	780	70	
	A/Sgt.	Dearman, B. T.	790	900	
	A/Sgt.	Husband, J. R.	800	40	
	A/Sgt.	Gleisinger, J. H.	810	420	
	Cpl.	Charlesworth, R. C.	820	450	
	A/Sgt.	Bell, I. M.	830	200	
	Cpl.	Hinton, P. D.	840	80	

Clerk Technical Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Ridge, C. D.	490	420	

Driver Royal Signals Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Stevenson, F.	1050	660	
	A/Sgt.	Little, G. H.	1060	870	

Electrician Driver Role

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Stewart, K. C.	300	110	
	A/Sgt.	Pigg, T. L.	330	150	
	A/Sgt.	Platts, G.	340	160	
	Cpl.	Osborne, A. F.	350	510	

Radio Operator Roll

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Wilby, N.	1880	20	

INSERTIONS

Chief Clerks Roll

To S Sgt.	W.O.II	Barlow, D. R.	580	720	(Chief Clerk)

Clerk Technical Roll

To Sgt.	Sgt.	Cumming, B. A.	114	3170	(Tech.)

DELETIONS

Regimental Duty Roll

W.O.I 470
W.O.II 1640 3170 3830

DELETIONS—continued

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	1220	
W.O.II	1960	

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

W.O.I	20	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	450	520
W.O.II	1240	

CHIEF CLERKS ROLL

W.O.II	1140	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.	5400	5912	5920	6225

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt.	20	

LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt.	100	

RADIO RELAYMAN ROLL

Sgt.	100	

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Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

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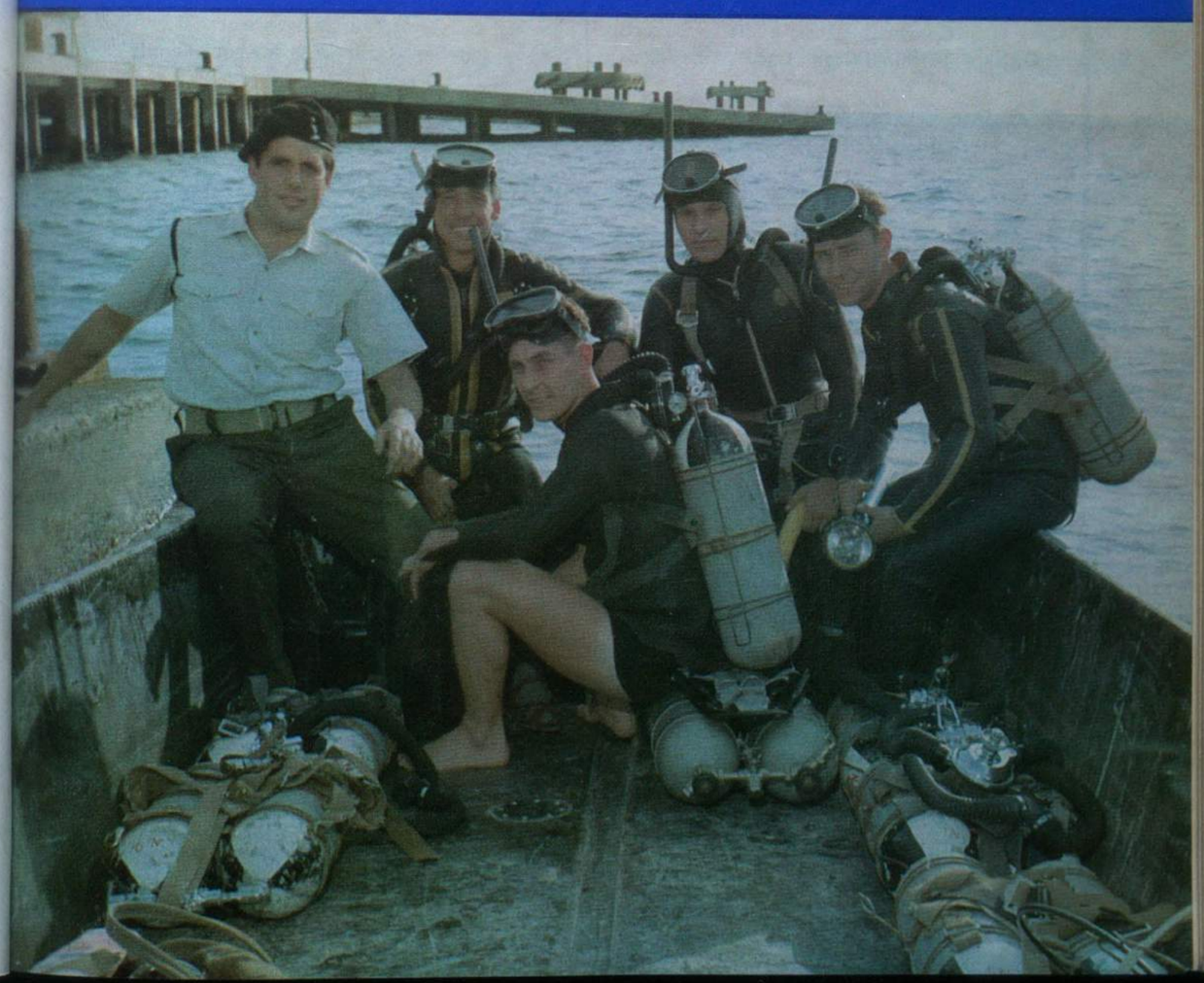
April-May 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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APRIL/MAY • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 4**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

262 SQUADRON (CYPRUS) SUB-AQUA ENTHUSIASTS

The photograph shows the five Royal Signals members of the Dhekelia Sub-Aqua Club, just before setting off from Dhekelia jetty to examine a wreck located five miles east of Dhekelia, and about half a mile offshore.

The 'aquanauts,' all members of 262 Squadron (Cyprus) are from left to right, **Signalman Dick Gray** (Driver Royal Signals BII), **Corporal 'Tug' Wilson** (Driver Royal Signals B.I., Squadron M.T. N.C.O.), **Corporal Carl Bellamy** (Radio Relayman B.I.), **Sergeant Alan Bott** (Radio Operator B.I., Radio Troop Sergeant) now posted to 5th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, and **Corporal George Coles** (Radio Operator B.I.).

Corporal Wilson and **Signalman Gray** are Class II divers, the remainder are Class III. The Club's full title is No. 120 Branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club, and currently has a membership of 24 so that the Corps is very well represented. In addition, **Corporal Wilson** and **Sergeant Bott** are members of the Club Committee—the former as Equipment Officer and the latter as Boat Member.

The Cyprus coastal waters contain a great deal of interest to sub-aqua enthusiasts. Not only are there wrecks from many ages, including World War II casualties, but also a fair variety of marine life. Seven feet long tuna, fifty pound groupers, three feet long turtles and octopus spanning four and a half feet have been recorded.

With the splendid climate facilitating weekend diving camps around the island, a well-appointed club room close to the Dhekelia beach, and other service branches of the British Sub-Aqua Club close at hand for social activities as well as diving co-operation, the Squadron sub-aqua enthusiasts are able to enjoy their sport to the full.

Calling all our Contributors

The 28th June, 1970, is the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps and is, in fact, the birthday of the Corps.

To mark the occasion, as well as the Corps' Golden Jubilee year, we are planning to produce, in a modest way, a special edition of THE WIRE with an original front cover designed for the occasion.

THE WIRE itself has appeared every month (except during the war years) since February 1920 and we propose to publish one or two extracts from the very first edition of THE WIRE 50 years ago.

Contributors of unit notes may feel that they would like to send in special notes and greetings to THE WIRE to mark the occasion.

It may be appropriate in certain cases to look back over the history of particular units mentioning the highlights of the past and contrasting them with the present day role.

In view of the likely influx of contributions from many units of the Corps, articles should not be too long. Also all must be in the hands of the Editor by the **12th May at the latest.**

Please allow for present day post which is several days slower than the service we enjoyed a few years ago.

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.

——***Second-Lieutenant Derek Howshall of 22nd Signal Regiment***

for leading the Regiment's judo team to a worthy success in the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships, gaining the overall third position (other members of the team are included in unit notes). **Second-Lieutenant Howshall** achieved a further success in the individual championships and has been selected to represent B.A.O.R. in the U.K. Championship later this year.

——***Lance-Corporal M. J. Bull of 30th Signal Regiment and Lance-Corporal R. G. Story of Schools of Signals***

for getting a first as a crew in the Oxford Long Distance Canoe Race on 1st March in Class 4A of this event. This race was the first national race of its kind in the annual canoe racing calendar and it was a great achievement for these Corps canoeists as they were competing against some of the best paddlers in the country. These N.C.O.s also carried Corps colours in the Devizes to Westminster race which took place at the Easter weekend. (It is hoped a full report will be given in the next issue.—Editor). Last year **Lance-Corporal Story** (crewing with **Captain Gray** of the Corps) completed the course in 24 hours and **Corporal Bull** (crewing with **Signalman Bingham**) completed the course in 25 hours and there is no doubt they are well fitted to hold their own for the Corps in this extremely difficult marathon.

——***A/T. Corporal Bertin of Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate***

for being selected to represent the Army at Squash in the Drysdale Cup (World Junior Squash Championship) to be held in London in April.

——***Sergeant Jarrott and his team of technicians selected from Corporals Forshaw, Miller and Robertson and Lance-Corporal Pennington***

who with an Air Force friend won the R.A.F. Saxa Vord fourman skittles competition (in the presence of **Colonel F. M. S. Winter,** Commander 2 Signal Group) in faraway Shetland. There were scenes of tremendous excitement on the final evening and that steadiness under fire, the famous British Army attitude, still exists in 1970, was clearly demonstrated by the team including, when all depended upon him, 'anchor man' **Corporal Forshaw!** A good effort from Royal Signals in Shetland, Britain's most northerly station, where the wind really blows and within yards of the utmost northerly point of the British Isles.

——***Lance-Corporal Geoff Cutts of 30th Signal Regiment***

for winning the Army Welterweight Boxing Championship at Aldershot on 19th February. His devastating attack in the first minute of the first round was far too much for his opponent. Now Cutts is in for the Combined Services' Championship and the Amateur Boxing Association's Quarter-finals and for the third time he will represent his native Wales in the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh. (See photo on page 162).

Sergeant P. Smurthwaite of 14th Signal Regiment

for being selected to tour Cyprus with the Combined Services Association Football team.

* * *

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.

From our "In" Tray

IN DAYS LONG GONE BY
M/c Display Team 1920?

Life at Crowborough in the Nineteen-Twenties

Sir,

I enclose two further souvenirs of the early 1920s which you may consider worthy of publication in THE WIRE. These were taken at Crowborough Camp and give a good example of the D.R.'s motor-cycles of those days (because of space considerations only one photo could be used.—Editor).

The machines were, I think, Douglas twin-cylinder, belt-driven and yours truly is the 'Tail-end Charlie' in the group picture.

Regarding Crowborough, it might be of some interest to other members of the Corps if I recall a little of our off-duty life there. We had stage shows put on regularly by **Lieutenant R. T. O. Cary,** and concert parties organised by **Captain Hulbert** who was, I believe, our M.O. His famous sons Jack and Claude and their ladies, Cecily Courtnidge and Enid Trevor, came down and gave us first-class shows.

It is good to know that those two grand old troupers, Jack and Cecily, are still going strong. I will long remember the pleasure they gave to we young soldiers in those far-off days.

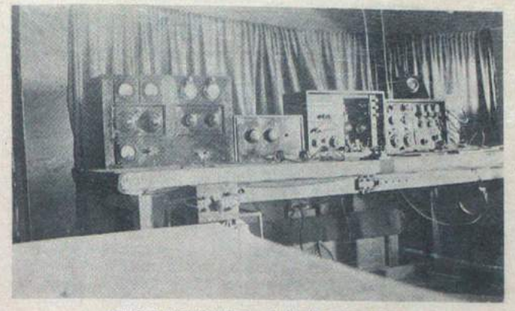
Yours, etc.,
W. A. Clark

256 Addison Way, Hayes, Middlesex.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH
Royal Signals Association

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Masonic Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, on Saturday, 2nd May, at 7.30 for 8 p.m.

All enquiries to **Mr. A. V. Ient, 111,** Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants. Phone: **Aldershot 2365.**



OLD FASHIONED—BUT IT WORKED
Signal office, Razmak, Waziristan

NO. 1 SET, WAZIRISTAN 1936-37
Signalman "Kipper" Kitson and Lance-Corporal "Taffy" Rigby

More about 'Olde Worlde' Wireless Operators

Sir,

I wonder how many of **Major Banham's** list of 'Olde Worlde' Wireless Operators (WIRE, January/February issue) will recognise this, one of the scenes of their many labours—the Signal Office, Razmak, or this picture of two of their number, **Signalman 'Kipper' Kitson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taffy' Rigby** plying their trade in Waziristan in 1936.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. Dyson.

49, Crossways Drive,
Harrogate.

3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club

The 19th Reunion dinner will be held in London on Saturday, 2nd May, 1970. Any ex-member of the Regiment will be most welcome and further details can be obtained from Major K. N. Smartt, Imber, Millway Road, Andover, Hants.

Club members should have received the usual notification but there are many who are still serving and with whom the Club have lost touch due to changes of address. Please let us have up to date addresses, whether or not you can attend the dinner.

A Royal Signals Sub Aqua Club?

Sir,

From time to time we see in THE WIRE articles telling of sub aqua activities held in units throughout the world. The sub aqua sport is becoming increasingly popular but as one moves from unit to unit one goes from relative plenty to absolute famine. These clubs are financed from various sources, mainly rich overseas P.R.I. and Nuffield Trust grants; from time to time they may also be short of members or wish to dispose of their equipment owing to a lack of interest at that time.

The question arises therefore: Is there a requirement for a Royal Signals Sub Aqua Club similar to the Sailing Club? It would be interesting to have Corps' members views.

Finally, if there are units wishing to dispose of or sell sub aqua equipment then 30th Signal Regiment are interested.

D. P. Herring, Captain (T.O.T.) Royal Signals.
30th Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset.

It is of interest to note that quite fortuitously in this 'Wire' the front cover picture is of sub aqua activities and on page 178 is a description of the lengths that enthusiasts will go in order to participate in this unusual and obviously popular sport. —Editor.

An Ode to a Tartan Skirt

Lance-Corporal A. Low, W.R.A.C., of 242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh, puts forward a poetical viewpoint about the new Tartan Skirt issued to W.R.A.C. personnel in Scotland.

To wear tartan skirts for girls of beauty,
Is uplift enough without being snooty,
And even if hem is twixt mini and maxi,
It's still hard enough to get out of a taxi.

But hiking and walking are more like our norm,
And kilts are fine when braving a storm.
The snow makes us grin for that means a spree,
Gather up skis! We're off to Glenshee,
Let Hunting Stewart protect my knee,
H.Q. Scotland's the place for me.

Lance Corporal Low of 242 Signal Squadron Edinburgh

The beginning of the end . . .

Handover of fixed communications starts in Singapore

As part of the process of run down in the Far East and the handover of bases and installations to the Singapore Government, the first of our communication systems was handed over to the Singapore Telephone Board, when they assumed responsibility for the maintenance of R.A.F. Seletar switchboard and cable system.

This arrangement enables 19th Signal Regiment (Air Support) to withdraw Seletar Troop, which has for many years looked after the interests of the R.A.F. on this station.

This will be the pattern of events on all the remaining Army and R.A.F. bases until just before the final withdrawal, when all installations pass to the Singapore Government under the Dudley agreement.

Final discussion before signing the agreement. From left to right: **Mr. Norman Funston,** A.E.E., 5th Signal Group; **Mr. Francis Loh,** Divisional Manager of the Singapore Telephone Board; **Major P. J. W. Stephens,** H.Q. 5th Signal Group (partly hidden); **Colonel D. A. Polley,** Commander 5th Signal Group; **Captain B. F. Strange,** O.C. Seletar Troop, 19th Signal Regiment; **Wing-Commander A. B. Peaker,** O.C. Electrical Engineering Squadron, R.A.F. Seletar; **Mr. Loke,** General Manager, Singapore Telephone Board.

Gurkha Signals Ties

A stock of Gurkha Signals ties is held by the Secretary of the Gurkha Signals Association:

Lieutenant-Colonel J. I. Parkinson, M.B.E., Lowfields House, 933, Leeds Road, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Any member of ex-member of Gurkha Signals in the U.K. may obtain a Regimental tie by writing to the above address enclosing a cheque or postal order for 16/-.

Combined Retreat and Motor Cycle Display at 10th Signal Regiment

The combined Retreat and Motor Cycle Display at 18.30 hours on Thursday, 7th May, at Beavers Lane Camp (10th Signal Regiment Lines), Hounslow, will be open to the general public and of special interest to Corps Association Members in London area.

UPGRADING COURSES AT CATTERICK

Course No.		*Assembles*	*Disperses*
1/54	Telegraph Operator II-1	14 July '70	20 Oct. '70
1/55	Telegraph Operator 11-1	21 July '70	30 Oct. '70
1/17	Clerk Technical 11-1	7 July '70	4 Sep. '70
1/27	Radio Relayman 11-1	7 July '70	20 Aug. '70

Obituary

Major D. R. Beadon

As we were going to press the sad news of **Major Dacres Beadon's** death came through. **Dacres,** who had returned to the U.K. from Cyprus in 1969, was all set for a posting to Libya when the sudden political changes in that country put this move into abeyance. He seemed to be his usual cheerful self and his sudden and unexpected death at the age of 40 will come as a shock to many.

Dacres, who was commissioned ex-Sandhurst, joined the Corps in 1950 and soon found himself out in Malaya from 1951 to 1953. Subsequently, he had two tours of duty with 216 Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron, 1955/56 and 1962/63, and a spell of three years with the Junior Leaders' Regiment, 1959/62.

His last unit prior to returning home was 262 Signal Squadron. **Dacres** had a wide circle of friends and he will be remembered in particular for his warm and cheerful personality. That he should have gone at his prime is indeed sad.

Our deep sympathy goes to his wife, **Rachel,** and his two children.

Signalman Harold Ernest Lovell

Signalman Lovell joined R.E. (Signals) in May, 1917, and served in France with British Signal Units and Canadian Signals.

Transferred to Royal Signals on formation of the Corps at Maresfield Park Camp; moved to Catterick with the School of Signals in 1925; posted to 1st Divisional Signals, Aldershot, in 1926, where he served until discharged on medical grounds in 1940. Many old members of 1st Division Signal will remember him as the very efficient mob storeman. He was, after his discharge from the Army, for over 20 years a postman in Farnborough, Hants.

The service, at Aldershot Crematorium, was attended by **Mr. L. V. Goodman** of the Aldershot Branch.

R.S.M. V. C. Hylands

It is with regret that we have to report the death of **R.S.M. (Vic) Hylands** at Farnborough,, Hants., on 23rd February. After a long, serious illness, he passed away at his home at Sandy Lane.

'Vic,' as he was well known, served in the Corps from 1922 to 1945, having in his time served at Maresfield, Aldershot, 1st Divisional Signals, India, 4th Cavalry Brigade Signals. During the war he served in India with the 4th Indian Division Signals and in the North African Campaign and in Eritrea. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice, and completed his service with the Air Formation Signals at Hendon and Cuckfield. After the war he continued to work with the Signals at The Compound, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, until his retirement seven years ago. He was nearly 72 and leaves a widow and son.

He was a Life Member of the Association and a member of the Aldershot Branch.

The funeral service, at Aldershot Crematorium, was attended by **Vic Goodman, Vic Ient** and **Mr. ('Dodger') Green.**

The Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during February, 1970:

Commandant, R. A. Range, Hebrides (Wives Club)	23	0	0
O.C., 54th (E.A.) Signal Squadron (V)	6	0	0
O.C., 49th (W.Riding) Signal Squadron (V)	1	1	0
Major The Earl Kitchener, T.D.	2	0	0
M. E. Holdsworth Esq.	1	0	0
L. G. Toogood Esq.	1	0	0
C. K. MacLennan Esq.	1	1	0
F. A. A. Randall Esq.		5	0
Total ...	£35	7	0
Expenditure during February, 1970	£958	7	9

Royal Signals Anniversary One-day Cover

On the right is shown the Signals motif that will be a feature of the special one-day cover that is being issued to mark the Corps' 50th anniversary. Above is the cancellation stamp that will be used. Please use the order form at the bottom of the right hand column when applying for these covers.

Further details are as follows:—

The size of the envelope will be 7¼ x 4½. The design as shown on the above will be printed in four-colour half-tone on the left hand half of the envelope. This design was commissioned to a Mr. Vasarhelyi who is a nationally-known designer of stamps and philatelic covers.

The handstamp has been specially designed to cancel the 9d. G.P.O. Tele-communications Stamp and will be 2" x 1¼".

The British Forces Postal Service have allotted the B.F.P.O. number 1098 and the envelopes will be cancelled under their supervision on the 28th June, 1970, and only on that date, during the Old Comrades' Festivities at Catterick.

Included in every envelope will be an insert giving a short history of the Corps and fascimile copies of the two Royal Warrants forming the Corps and granting the use of the title Royal.

All profits deriving from the sale of these unique and attractive one-day covers will be handed over to the benevolent fund of the Royal Signals Association.

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

'The Wire' is always ready to receive 'snippets' of your Corps news by telephone or signal, and these can often be inserted in 'The Wire' after the closing date for receipt of copy, if they are SHORT.

So let us hear about your sporting successes or any other items of particular interest that ought to go into 'The Wire.' Be news-minded and keep us informed.

We hate to say:

"WHY DIDN'T THEY LET US KNOW?"

ROYAL SIGNALS 50th ANNIVERSARY 1970 CELEBRATIONS

SPECIAL ROYAL SIGNALS ONE-DAY COVER

Orders for these Covers can now be placed. Please use order form below.

To: Royal Signals Philatelic Officer,
11th Signal Regiment,
Helles Barracks,
Catterick Camp,
Yorkshire. Date .....

Please send ..... copies of the Royal Signals 50th Anniversary One-Day Cover (5/- each) issued on 28th June, 1970, to:

.....
.....
.....

Give name and full postal address

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order for £ : : to cover the cost. (Note: Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to: PRI, 11th Signal Regiment).

Signed .....

21st Signal Regiment make splendid debut in Army Cross Country Championships

1970 has been an excellent season for the 21st Signal Regiment cross-country team. Naturally, they would have liked to have won the Army Championships at their first serious attempt, particularly in the 50th Anniversary year, but to come second in the whole of the Army is no mean feat and one not accomplished for a very long time by a Royal Signals unit.

A great team

THIS was, and will be for years to come, a great team; if any single factor cost us the championship, it was lack of experience. This will not apply not year; with an average age of just over 21, we are going to keep improving.

The effort really started in October, 1968, when we reached our growing potential and set our sights on success this season. Gradually the team took shape and performances have got better and better. The peak was reached when we won the B.A.O.R. Championships, a competition in which no Royal Signals unit had ever previously been placed, by an overwhelming margin. It was difficult after this to recover our mental edge in time for the Army Championships at Blackdown ten days later.

In the event, a very bad start in the Army Finals put us too far behind to catch the Cheshires, the eventual winners with a score of 236 points. The day was made, however, when in a breathtaking finish we beat the 1st Para. Battalion, the winners for the past nine seasons, by six points (307 to 313).

Determination

There are some superb individual runners in the team but there is no doubt that the greatest asset throughout the season was team spirit. The determination and application of every man was tremendous; four of them collapsed on the line at the finish of the Army Championships, having given everything they had.

It would be invidious to single out individual performance but mention must be made of the team captain, **Corporal George Holden,** who ran superbly and was a source of strength and encouragement to everyone. A real team man who always produces his best on the big occasions.

Behind the team

We have included the team manager, **Lieutenant Terry Cantle,** in the 'Rogues' Gallery.' It is easy to forget managers who play such an important part in any sporting success. **Terry** is more famous as an outstanding hockey player than as a cross-country expert but his drive and leadership contributed more harmony than any other single factor to our victories.

A thank you

We would like to record our appreciation for the support and assistance received from other units in the Corps, especially 8th Signal Regiment for releasing **Corporal Ray Storer** off course when needed and also instructing their team at the finals to do everything to help us. A credit is due to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Mick Hall,** of 222 Signal Squadron, who trained two of our runners at Harrogate. He has taken a great interest in our progress during the season and has given us much excellent advice. We must also mention the patient wives and girl friends of the team who were there at the finish where distance allowed.

Finally, our thanks to the Editor and staff of THE WIRE who have supported us in print and at Blackdown in person. We promise to go one better in 1971.

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Tel. RICKMANSWORTH 73650 and 78711.

Photos of the team that nearly did it!

21st Regiment's Cross-Country Team set their sights high—to win the Army Championships. They nearly did it . . . they came in a very creditable second.

Now they say 1971 will be the year

Corporal Mick Gue. Probably the best runner in the team on this season's form, Mick is a beautiful stylist with plenty of experience. He gave up his leave on posting to the Regiment in order not to miss any running

Corporal Pete Dring. A remarkable all round sportsman who is Command standard at soccer, cricket and basketball. He is dedicated to winning a place in Britain's Olympic marathon team and has some remarkable times to his credit in spite of his very young age (22 years). He put in some superb performances during the season but was not at quite his own best in the two big races. We expect great things from him next year

Corporal George Holden. A very experienced runner who started in 21st Signal Regiment and reckons that he will probably finish there. A great team man who lost form in mid season after suffering from that Asian Flu but recovered to come 2nd in B.A.O.R. and 15th in the Army

Lance-Corporal Graham Cambell. Came to the Regiment straight from Catterick and is determined to become a first class runner. He is very good for his age (19) and will be challenging the "big five" next year and afterwards

Corporal Ray Storer. On course in Catterick, Ray was desperately worried that he would not get away for the Army Championships but thanks to C.O. 8th, he made it and did very well. A team man of enormous strength and stamina

Lance-Corporal Fred Roissetter. Ex Harrogate, Fred is as strong as a horse and improves with the length of the race

Corporal Chris Cottam. In most races, Chris was the key number eight man. When he appeared, we knew where we stood. 23rd in B.A.O.R. and 75th in the Army was very creditable in this first season

Corporal Ginger McNeill. A much improved runner who is primarily a middle distance man but is determined not to let the team down over the country. He was always breathing down the necks of our 6, 7 and 8

Lance-Corporal Keith Woodford. Every team has to have a tenth runner and very few have them as good and as loyal as Keith

Lieutenant Terry Cantle. The coach and manager Combined Services Hockey player and fanatical sportsman who inspired and drove the team to the heights they reached

With much regret, owing to photographs being below standard, we have been unable to print pictures of Corporal Pete MacMillan and Lance-Corporals Dave Innes and Paul Hunt

They are summed up as follows:

Corporal Pete MacMillan. Came straight off course in Catterick in January without leave. A great hearted runner who was not quite at his best by the end of the season

Lance-Corporal Dave Innes. 17th in the Rhine Area Championships, Dave had the frustrating experience of training for and travelling to the bigger events but not taking part. Any team is as strong as its reserves and we are very lucky to have one as reliable as Dave

Lance-Corporal Paul Hunt. Also took part in the Rhine Area but not required in the closing stages. A great trier who never let us down

A new approach to an old problem

YOU are to command a Signal Group in Germany. A welcome posting in these days of a shrinking Army. How would I move?

Moving to his sixth home in eleven years, Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E., of H.Q. 4 Signal Group, and family, decided on a 'Do-it-yourself' effort. What happened and the ultimate result he describes in this article.

In the past my baggage and boxes have suffered much at the hands of the railway and the stevedores at the dockside and I was determined that it would not happen this time. I joined forces with a friend returning from a tour in B.A.O.R. and hired a 4-ton German van. Mary and I would try our hand at the trucking business, get our excess baggage to Rheindahlen and protect our valuables.

. . . swinging the brute

The day for the move arrived. We were up at six to clear the house. It was dark. Breakfast pans were packed as soon as they were cool. The quartermasters arrived, quickly followed by the plumber who was to drain off the central heating system. He had some difficulty with the main water cock. Its manhole cover had frozen in place but that was overcome by placing the lorry over the cover and thawing the ice with the heat of the engine. Not that starting the engine was an easy task, swinging the brute in the cold. We eventually got it going by reaching between the front wheel and the mudguard for the solenoid mounted on the chassis—the ignition switch in the cab had given up the ghost. An unwanted but excellent anti-thief device!

By 12.30 all was ready. The lorry stood in the snow with its cargo—washing machine and pictures, skis and children's bicycles, uniforms and clothes, crates of crockery and glass. The gypsies were on the move yet again, off to their sixth home in eleven years.

In company with the elite of the transport business

With a heave and a roar we gathered speed down the drive between the high banks of snow to the A25. Mary wrapped in a sheepskin jacket and wearing a woolley hat made an excellent driver's mate. Our left-hand drive seemed strange on the narrow roads of southern England. Dover was soon reached only to find that the Townsend ferry was unable to load because of the swell caused by a Channel gale. We eventually got aboard in company with the élite of the transportation business, the 30-ton, 60-foot, inter-Continental lorries bound for Budapest and Turin. Not for us the cars and caravans of the Ostende route.

The ferry was several hours late at Zeebrugge. The Customs Officer looked aghast at the pile of household goods but was kindness itself. He stamped the documents and waved us through. By the light of the sodium lamps we found our way out of the docks in the mist and damp, on to the thawing, empty roads of Belgium. 1 a.m. Saturday morning and all was well. It was a short haul to Brugges and we rolled in to the town square at 1.30, a little weary and cold, but we were in luck. The Golden Monkey made us welcome despite the lateness of the hour. A warm room and clean sheets were a delight.

With a shudder the load moves on to the autobahn

Up at seven much refreshed and on the way by nine after some energetic swinging of the starting handle. With a shudder the load moved on to the autoroute and so to Brussels, Louvain, Diest and across Holland to Germany. The same route as Guards Armoured Division had followed 26 years before. Only one error of mapreading by the mate as we circled Brussels, missed a mud-covered route sign and found ourselves 3 kms. up the Antwerp road before we could turn. She is much better at sea with a chart and dividers. An excellent lunch in a Flemish transport cafe and once more into the roaring, pulsating cabin, high above the road. We made Rheindahlen just a few minutes after our E.T.A. of 5 p.m., 28 hours after leaving home.

A royal welcome at the Visitors' Mess after the mudstained, icy journey. In the warm sitting room of our suite was a box of chocolates and flowers for Mary, two invitations to dinner, a pile of mail and a bottle of Scotch with sodas on a tray for me—pleasure indeed after the drought of England. A hot bath to wash away the grime of heavy goods vehicle travel, followed by dinner and then visitors. One delivered our car and another presented the keys of our new house which had been taken over the previous day in anticipation of our arrival. We did not move in for a couple of days as the previous occupants had favoured single beds and a double one had been ordered for us. An understanding staff!

Was it worth it?

If you have read so far your question is probably, "Was the journey worth it?" Yes I think so. It's relatively cheap, no problems with Customs, you meet some odd and interesting characters and it makes a change from the confined space of an aircraft. The 'end of tour' trip, B.A.O.R.-U.K., clearly shows a greater profit than the outward journey to B.A.O.R. but in both cases you arrive with your household belongings; the pictures are intact, that favourite piece of jade from a Far East tour has not been broken, and great aunt Grace's sherry glasses are in one piece. What did it cost? Hire of van, DM 200 for the round trip, plus your ferry and petrol at B.A.O.R. rates. Use the Zeebrugge ferry and you are not treated as a commercial vehicle.

Try it yourself, it has its amusing moments.

Getting Scotland into the Six

or

How an English Signal Officer upheld the honour of the Scottish Infantry with the French in Germany

By Lieutenant David Marks

A Cosmopolitan affair

AS Assistant Signal Officer in the 1st Battalion Royal Scots, I was lucky enough to be chosen to represent the Battalion on an au pair exchange visit with the 110m. Regiment D'Ifanterie, a French battalion, with which the exchange of officers has been quite a long-standing arrangement. It turned out to be a very cosmopolitan affair, being an Englishman representing a Scottish Battalion, visiting a French Regiment, stationed in Germany.

Whisky by the half-pint

The Regiment is stationed in Donaueschingen, in the Black Forest, and so enjoys some wonderful picturesque summers and some very cold winters. At the time of my visit, in late November, the temperature was already reaching –20°C., and after a ten-hour drive from Osnabruck, I was feeling both tired and cold when I arrived to meet the officers of my host Company. Obviously the cold was taken into account and the tiredness overlooked as the many hands outstretched in greeting were soon offering half-pints of neat whisky to the intrepid traveller.

I later learned that whisky has gained a foothold in France as *the* popular drink, and anyone with even the vaguest connections with Scotland is expected to consume vast quantities of it in preference to coffee, tea, wine or any other liquid refreshment. My usual request for beer, when offered a drink, was inevitably met with an incredulous gaze, and I was duly given both whisky and beer.

To say I felt this initial show of French hospitality overpowering would be an understatement, and I was about ready to flake into my bed, after a couple of hours, when I was ushered into my room to wash and change and told to be in the bar at 8.30 to go out to dinner!

Superman qualities required

And so passed the next two weeks; during the day I visited the various companies and saw the military paraphernalia, normally ending up in the Company bar to discuss and comment on it, and in the evening I visited the officers' families *sur le patch* for dinner, and the inevitable whisky.

I soon learned that superman-type qualities were needed, not only for the consumption of this excellent beverage, but also

(*Continued on page* 145)

(*Continued from page* 144)

for food, and I must admit, I didn't find it too difficult to come up to scratch in this respect.

I was definitely in danger of returning home a 20-stone alcoholic, had it not been for the military aspect of my trip. I must say, I found the basic training of the conscript army very interesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in *most* aspects of it.

A hard life

Le soldat's life is hard indeed, compared with ours, the day starting at 05.30 with cold water for washing and shaving, a breakfast of coffee and bread, and the day's training starts with a march or run, during which a hearty song is expected from all 'happy campers' before they return to a lunch cooked by whoever the duty company has appointed as 'Cordon Bluuurrrggg chef' of the day.

I suppose it could be said that they have 'something to sing about,' as all new arrivals are given, quite free of charge, the latest 'skinhead'-type haircut and maxi overcoat, although somehow they just didn't look as 'with it' as their London counterparts.

In spite of the primitive life which greets the new recruits, after some weeks their spirit grows and each platoon participates zealously in the many varied clubs and activities provided for them. Their fitness and military training grows fast, and the climax to the training period is a two-week visit to the Commando Training Centre.

Survival and self-confidence

The accent here is on survival and self-confidence, and some of the gadgets devised to achieve the latter are enough to make the shortest and curliest of hair stand on end. The roulettes, the death slide, the toggle slide—all performed at 1,000 feet, or so it seemed, without safety net or parachute. All these, and more, were performed by the soldiers without qualm and by me with heart in mouth, just hoping that neither the rope nor my neck would break.

The reliability of both proved to be first class, and I spent the next few days seeing the much more interesting survival department. Having learned how to construct a full-detached, one-bedroomed wigwam, catch and cook a hedgehog and make a set of three kitchen utensils fit for Mrs. Beaton, I left for Donaueschingen feeling very much a Red Indian. At the very end of my stay I was lucky enough to be present for the Ball of the Deux Ess, which, as far as I could make out occurs every month with an 'R' in it, and is to celebrate the victory of Napoleon at Austerlitz.

Souvenirs presented

The ball was a great success, during which the Colonel presented me with some very attractive souvenirs of his Regiment. Just before the end, assisted by many helping hands, I presented, in return, a Battalion plaque which is now nailed very firmly, if just a little crookedly over the mess bar.

Gigi

With typical 'Pommy/Jock' luck, it was at this stage of my stay that I made the acquaintance of Gigi. She is a very charming little Infrimiere, and really played not a little part in making my visit to the 110m. Regiment d'Infanterie very memorable indeed. Or as my brother officers hear me sing as I set out for my run every morning at 05.00—'**Vive La France.**'

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS—SCOTLAND

These are being held at Perth on the weekend of 24th/25th October.

The organisers are anxious to obtain the names and addresses of all Signals and R.E. Signals who live in Scotland or have connections with Signals in Scotland.

Please write to R.H.Q., 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W. (Tel. 041-339-8401) by whom fuller details will be notified later.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant M. J. Backhurst	To	2nd Bn. Coldstream Guards
Lieutenant G. J. Barrett	,,	9th Regiment
Major J. F. Blake	,,	School of Artillery (as Lt.-Col.)
Lieutenant R. F. Brooks	,,	7th Regiment
Captain D. E. Burt	,,	223 Squadron
Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.	,,	M.A., Bonn
Lieutenant J. D. Daglish	,,	Attd. R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Major A. R. Dominy	,,	Army Works Study School
Captain I. C. Double	,,	639 Troop
Captain (T.O.T.) M. R. Edge	,,	227 Squadron
Major F. R. Fletcher	,,	36th Regiment (V)
Captain M. J. Ford	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant C. J. Grant	,,	30th Regiment
Lieutenant H. Grenville-Jones	,,	H.Q., Wales
Lieutenant P. A. Hallett	,,	Attd. 1st Royal Tank Regiment
Lieutenant R. N. C. Harrison	,,	Attd. 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards
Lieutenant J. P. Hayes	,,	18th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) D. Hazel	,,	Computer Centre, B.A.O.R. (as Major)
Lieutenant L. S. Hood	,,	244 Squadron
Lieutenant A. J. Hutt	,,	21st Regiment
Captain (Q.M.) R. D. Laing	,,	18th Regiment
Major P. F. Larrington	,,	M.O.D., Sigs 35
Major I. N. Lee	,,	JOCPT, Wilton
Major C. N. Le Gassick, M.B.E.	,,	H.Q., Scotland (as C.S.O., Lt.-Col).
A/Major P. B. Leonard	,,	233 Squadron
Captain J. H. Lowe	,,	M.O.D., Sigs 35
Lieutenant D. J. Maclean	,,	30th Regiment
Captain M. J. McCann	,,	222 Squadron
Major D. F. Malone	,,	JOCPT, Wilton
Major D. J. Milton	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Lieutenant P. G. T. Morgan	,,	11th Regiment
Lieutenant E. M. Powell	,,	Attd. 4/7 Royal Dragoon Gds.
Major T. Rigby	,,	7th Armd. Bde. & Signal Sqn. (O.C.)
Lieutenant M. W. H. Roberts	,,	R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
A/Captain J. R. Selby	,,	16th Regiment
Captain J. F. Storr	,,	8th Regiment
Lieutenant A. Sugden	,,	12th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major R. Trelawny	,,	14th Regiment
Lieutenant M. J. Walker	,,	Attd. 15/19 King's Royal Hussars
Captain P. B. Webster	,,	H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps
Lieutenant M. C. Wilkinson	,,	Attd. 13/18 Royal Hussars

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.II M. J. Dunmall	To	7th Regiment
W.O.II J. D. Laing	,,	11th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. E. Newson	,,	222 Squadron
W.O.II P. R. Foster	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II W. T. Matthews	,,	21st Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. A. Little	,,	28th Regiment
W.O.II M. Morphey	,,	School of Artillery
W.O.II C. H. Richardson	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) L. A. Coole	,,	7th Regiment
A/W.O.II R. E. Keeler	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
W.O.II P. W. Todd	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
W.O.II G. A. Howie	,,	48 (Gurkha) Inf. Bde. Sig. Sqn.
W.O.II R. Copland	,,	24th Regiment
W.O.II A. L. Singer	,,	SHAPE (BAE)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. P. Coley	,,	55 Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. B. Gould	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. J. Adams	,,	21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. M. Kirkham	,,	255 Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. H. Blank	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
Staff Seregant J. H. Nelson	,,	31st Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant T. H. Atkins	,,	8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. Bowman	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant R. W. Adey	,,	32nd Regiment (V)
Sergeant C. J. Hamilton	,,	234 Squadron
Sergeant R. R. Gilmore	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant R. F. Dixon	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant D. E. Holder	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Killorn	,,	11th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant T. C. Faragher	,,	6th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant A. W. A. Bagwell	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant T. McGrath	,,	223 Squadron
Sergeant J. W. Tempest	,,	260 Squadron
Sergeant P. F. Lewer	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant J. B. Morris	,,	11th Regiment
A/Sergeant E. G. T. Jones	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant R. C. Jones	,,	30th Regiment
A/Sergeant J. G. Souley	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant W. J. Locker	,,	24th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant C. R. Jefford-Horn	,,	School of Signals Demonstration Team
Sergeant D. C. Thurston	,,	Army Apprentices' College Harrogate
Sergeant B. G. D. Nichols	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Dallow	,,	234 Squadron
Sergeant R. V. Clutterbuck	,,	31st Regiment (V)
Sergeant G. Thorpe	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant B. G. Watts	,,	School of Signals (F. of S. Course No. 30)
Sergeant J. A. Hume	,,	SHAPE H.Q., Comd. & Sp.
Sergeant J. M. C. Pow	,,	16th Regiment

(*Continued overleaf*)

(*Continued from page* 145)

Sergeant R. L. Stark		
Sergeant B. C. Jones		
Sergeant P. S. Forster		
Sergeant D. A. Dunbar		School of Signals
Sergeant K. D. Donaldson		(Y. of S. Course No. 19)
Sergeant D. R. Heyes		
Sergeant J. D. Waterston		
Sergeant B. K. Burton		
Sergeant P. Carter	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant F. C. Howley	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. A. Bott	,,	5th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant G. Cheyne	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Sergeant P. K. Heavey	,,	222 Squadron
Sergeant L. Coupe	,,	1st Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. Baldwin	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. Boxall	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant H. J. F. Brooks	,,	19th Inf. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant D. Wells	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Long	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant D. L. Morrison	,,	241 Squadron
Sergeant I. L. V. Eddington	,,	28th Regiment
A/Sergeant C. Hayton	,,	30th Regiment

Promotions

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

			Sen. No.	*Old Sen. No.*
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Smith, C. A.	710	1020

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Stroud, J. E.	560	940
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Duncan, E. D.	1240	1430

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Roscoe, P. J.	9099	15014
	Cpl.	Fox, R. E.	9288	15820
	Cpl.	Tuffin, B. F.	9317	13361
	Cpl.	Sanderson, R. L.	9319	15522
	Cpl.	Woodhouse, D. M.	9323	15105
	Cpl.	Brophy, B.	9324	15142
	Cpl.	Mann, M.	9326	13973
	Cpl.	Wise, C. D.	9330	14752
	Cpl.	Marshall, G. A. E.	9342	14668
	Cpl.	Barnett, D.	9365	13901
	Cpl.	Pearson, J. E.	9375	14292
	Cpl.	Withers, P. D.	9378	14963
	Cpl.	Gosling, R. A.	9385	14630
	Cpl.	Campbell, M. J.	9390	14680
	Cpl.	Miller, C. C.	9395	15709
	Cpl.	Wringe, R. E.	9396	15710
	Cpl.	Lowe, J. D.	9400	14210
	Cpl.	Habergham, R.	9402	14922
	Cpl.	Oakley, J. E.	9403	14215
	Cpl.	Shawyer, P. D.	9404	14390
	Cpl.	Howes, R. N.	9405	14220
	Cpl.	Spick, R. J.	9406	15762
	Cpl.	Matthison, J. E.	9415	14298
	Cpl.	Ardern, R.	9425	14483
	Cpl	Marshall, C. F.	9430	13636

SPECIAL OPERATORS ROLL

	A/Sgt.	Harle, G.	610	660
	A/Sgt.	Courtney, R. J.	630	440
	Cpl.	Hollowell, A. A. J.	710	410

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Gay, G. E.	1070	440
	A/Sgt.	Brown, B. R.	1090	610
	Cpl.	Wardle, T.	1110	1270
	A/Sgt.	Fenn, G. A.	1130	60

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl. (A/S Sgt.)	Culverhouse, S. G.	500	250

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Northey, G. C.	860	1270

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Jones, D.	1360	1110
	Cpl.	Jones, R.	1370	760

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	McKay, W. S. S.	1070	950

ELECTRICIAN DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Lewer, P. F.	360	390
	A/Sgt.	Walkingshaw, R. G.	370	220
	A/Sgt.	Graham, R. G.	380	280
	Cpl.	Perkin, T. A.	390	500

RADIO RELAYMAN ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Morgan, A. G.	200	120
	A/Sgt.	Thurley, K. R.	220	250
	A/Sgt.	Story, C. H.	230	60
	A/Sgt.	Stacey, F. J.	240	300
	Cpl.	Killorn, J. S.	250	30
	Cpl.	Meredith, D. E.	260	70

INSERTION

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

To W.O.II	W.O.I	Thornton, J. F.	2620	1520	(RD)	

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.I	1510					
W.O.II	1160	1370				

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	430	490	500	540		

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

S Sgt.	1290					

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.	2620	3795	4410	6268	6550	6759

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.	50	1240				

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

Sgt.	950					

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.	50	350	640			

Signals Wing, The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

IT is some time since the Signals Wing, Royal Military Academy appeared in THE WIRE. For this we apologise, but there never seems to be enough hours in a day, and time passes quickly!

Less commitments

The beginning of this term saw the start of the Academy's academic term, with much less signals instruction for the Officer Cadets for the time being, and so the Wing has been able to carry out more individual training and play more sports.

Two very successful Wing exercises have been carried out. The first involved a 60-mile mobile map-reading exercise for all members of our M.T., and this took the form of a car rally with timed distances and seven check points. **Lance-Corporal Giradot** and **Signalman Hodgson** eventually emerged as the winners.

The last, more recent exercise, saw **Sergeant Jim Tunney** and **Sergeant John Bayne** being rescued from a rather nasty air crash on Barossa Common by our intrepid M.T., who are now experts at removing bodies from trees and inflating collapsed lungs!

Edward Bear

During the summer recess, **Sergeant Graham Griffiths** and **Signalman 'Chalky' White** retired for a short time to R.A.F. Abingdon to carry out parachute training; it is worth pointing out that **'Chalky' White** is probably the only man below Sergeant rank in the British Army to be qualified to wear the Edward Bear parachute—well done! Both **Sergeant Griffiths** and **Signalman White** will be jumping with the Officer Cadets on Exercise 'Tipperary' in France in May.

Badminton

The badminton courts in the gymnasium have been used extensively by members of the Signals Wing, each trying hard to move to the next round of the Signals Wing Badminton Competition, organised by **Sergeant Tom Guest.** Once again the competition was enthusiastically supported by all members of the Wing. The final was a close contested game, eventually won by **Corporal Norman Robson,** who fought to the end to beat **Signalman Dave Plumb.** They are now enjoying a higher standard of living, spending their winnings!

Squash

During the winter term a squash rackets ladder was started (the ladder itself is a very 'swish' affair, made by **Sergeant Mick Sully,** and made from, amongst other things, a fine steel rule, very kindly lent by **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Dave Wootten**!). There were very few practised squash players in the Wing. However, after a term of play, **Sergeant Roy Jennings** became the title holder, and the Wing has now got almost a monopoly on the squash courts.

Football

The Wing is well represented at football throughout the Academy, and we would like to congratulate **Lance-Corporals Hatton** and **McLeod** and **Signalman Edwards** for being chosen to represent the Academy in their fixtures. The M.T., too, have had, after five games, a victory over the Academy R.C.T.; I have been informed by **Sergeant John Bayne** that our team was very much a scratch affair!

Recently, an Army Football Referees Course, Class III, was held by the Aldershot Referees' Committee. This course was attended, and successfully passed, by **Sergeant Tom Guest, Corporal Barrie Archer** and **Corporal George Hedge.** They can be seen dashing around the football fields on most afternoons, officiating at the Officer Cadets' football games.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Jack Simpson, the Football Referee Secretary for the Academy is always busy arranging the officials and generally supervising the referees.

Recent arrivals and departures

We welcome the following to the Signals Wing and hope their stay will be a happy one: **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) John Meehan, Sergeants Eddie Vickers** and **George Paton, Signalmen Newton, Campbell** and **Devenport.**

The following have left us and we are sorry to see them go, but wish them luck and hope to see them sometime in the future: **Sergeants 'Tich' Akehurst** and **Fred McMillan, Lance-Corporal Dukes.**

Major P. S. Davis, M.B.E., Royal Signals, our Chief Instructor, is to leave shortly for the Joint Services' Staff College. We wish both him and **Mrs. Davis** good luck and thank him for all he has done in the short time he has been here and extend a welcome to **Major D. J. Milton,** Royal Signals, as his successor.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. J. Simpson is also to leave us shortly on commissioning. Hearty congratulations and many thanks to him for all he has done for the Wing . . . Mine's a pint!

And an auto exchange, too!

For the information of those who have served here in the past, the new automatic telephone exchange has at last been installed. Our loyal **Colour-Sergeant (S) Pete Rowse,** R.M., is now able to sit back and see it all ticking over merrily after all his hard work and planning.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Harrogate Apprentice is new Squash Champion

A/T Corporal Kevin Bertin, of Rawson Squadron, became Northern Command Soldiers' Squash Champion when, on 6th February, he defeated **Colour-Sergeant Espie,** of the Royal Irish Rangers, in the final, by three games to two.

Now aged 18, **A/T Corporal Bertin,** who hails from Woolwich, entered the College in January, 1968; he is now in his seventh term of training as a technician, terminal equipment. Taking advantage of the College's then brand new courts, he adopted Squash as a pastime in his second term, and, making rapid progress, soon became a regular member of the College team. During the last Christmas vacation he was one of five apprentices to attend a Squash course at the National Recreation Centre, Lilleshall.

Following his success in the Command Championship, he was selected to represent Northern Command in the Inter-Command Team Championships, held at Larkhill on 11th and 12th February.

He also played a leading role in the College's 4—1 victory over H.Q., Northern Command, in the semi-final of the Army Squash Cup, played at Harrogate on 23rd February. In this, playing No. 1, he beat **Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Parker,** of the Corps, who once, incidentally, commanded Recruit Squadron at the College.

A/T Corporal Bertin's next target is the Army Junior Individual Squash Championship, to be held at Aldershot from 11th to 14th March. He is expected to be seeded No. 2.

Stop Press

A/T Corporal Bertin did become Army Junior Squash Champion. In the final of the Individual Competition he beat **Private Robinson,** of the Special Air Service, by 3 games to 2. He has been selected to represent the Army in the Drysdale Cup (World Junior Squash Championship) to be played in London in April.

[Photo: Yorkshire Post

THE APPRENTICE WHO SAW THE GENERAL OFF!

A/T Roy Sinclair met no less a person than Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker C.-in-C. Northern Command in the semi-finals of the Army Team Squash Championship and after a hard fought game beat him 9-7, 9-7, 7-2

Young Apprentice's memorable Squash match

Resisting the temptation to headline this 'Young Apprentice Squashes the General,' we record that one of our young apprentices had the surprise of his life when the teams were announced for the semi-final of the Army Squash Cup, between the College and H.Q., Northern Command, on 23rd February.

A/T Roy Sinclair, aged only 15, then learnt that he had 'drawn' the most redoubtable opponent of them all—no less than **Lieutenant-General Sir Cecil Blacker, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C.-in-C., Northern Command, and Vice-Chief of the General Staff (designate).

He did not, however, allow himself to be overawed, either by his opponent's position or by his outstanding athletic record (General Blacker is a former Olympic Pentathlete and Captain of the British Show Jumping team; he also rode in the 1948 Grand National). Asked by a Press reporter how he felt about the prospect of playing so distinguished an opponent, **A/T Sinclair** said, "At first I was naturally excited; now I have made up my mind to treat the General like any other opponent and do my best to win."

And he did just that—in three straight games, 9—7, 9—7, 9—2. After the match, **General Blacker,** who, on court, displayed an agility utterly belying his seniority, cheerfully admitted, "Age had nothing to do with it; the better man won." He went on to describe **Sinclair** as a "most promising young player."

A/T Sinclair, an apprentice telegraph operator, whose home is in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, entered the College only in September last year; until last term he had never had a Squash racket in his hand.

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THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY 1969

The Saga of the Igloo

By Lieutenant G. J. Thomas

There's a tale to be told of a subaltern bold,
You know what these subalterns are,
On a scheme called 'Bright Start,' he acted the part,
Of a snow man bound for afar.

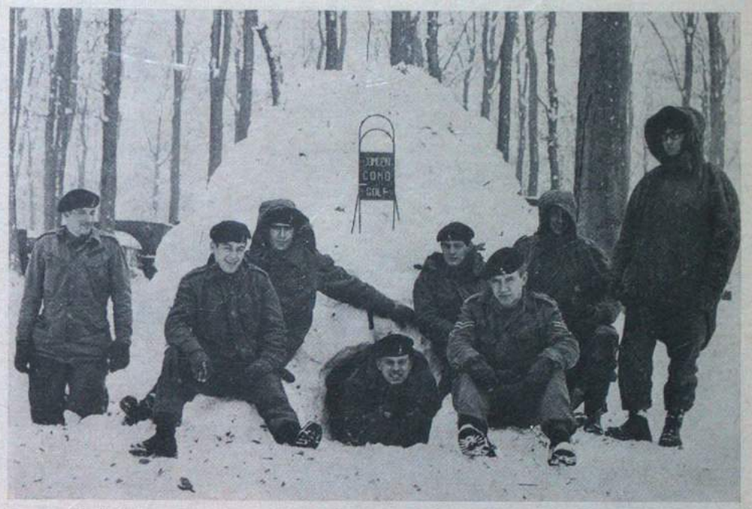
He was heard to remark, on a certain high mark,
There's a lot of this white stuff around,
Of lads there's a few, who have not much to do,
So I'll put them to work on the ground.

'Twas then that he made, a false step it is said,
A promise so rash and so jolly,
If completed that day, in igloo he'd stay,
And sleep through the night in his folly.

Then the sweat fairly flew, as the soldiers set to,
Their shovels they wielded with might,
They all were agreed, to complete with great speed,
A subaltern's room for the night.

So, late on that night, when circuits were quiet,
A figure to the Igloo proceeded,
With folding camp-bed, a pillow for his head,
And an air-bed, he felt, that was needed.

His bag he unzipped, and into it slipped,
From the cares of the day he slipped away,
And slept there so soundly, so deep and profoundly,
He nearly missed breakfast next day.



Comcen Golf's Igloo—*left to right:* are Signalmen "Rikky" Rijkebusch, Barry Noutch, Lance-Corporal Carl Figiel, Lieutenant Graham Thomas, Signalman Ken Cooley, Corporal Alan Duncan and Signalmen John Darwin and "Prof." Langton

Snow persists

HERE we are well into March and our way of life still bedevilled by snow, melting snow or ice. It sounds as though our scribe is not a skier! Skier or not we do feel that the time has come to see a sign of Spring after such a long winter, which has severely interfered with our outdoor team games.

Soccer in comfort

Another five-a-side soccer competition has taken place in the gymnasium and 3 Squadron ran out fairly comfortable winners. They certainly had a formidable line-up on paper, and by keeping the ball moving quickly they had most of their opponents under control.

This game really has caught on and the Sergeants' Mess took the whole thing very seriously and included Sunday training sessions in their social diary. Enthusiasm has waned a little lately as some have discovered that the Stadt Sauna bath, although more expensive, has the same effect with less energy loss.

Gymnasium—booked solid

In addition to a full P.T. programme and the customary Regimental teams training sessions, the gym has also housed a Regimental table tennis tournament. This proved a very interesting day's entertainment and brought to light some, hitherto unknown talent. The competition was run on a small leagues basis and so all competitors had plenty of opportunity to show their prowess.

In addition to winning the individual award, **Yeoman Ferguson** led the 3 Squadron team to the team championship. It was most interesting to see the 'eye for a ball' principle to the fore. A number of the players who took the honours are familiar faces in other Regimental teams. The only black spot in the whole days programme was when the Second-in-Command mentioned 'ping-pong'!

Another interesting addition to our gymnasium bookings is a regular ladies' evening on Tuesday. The average attendance since Christmas has been just over 30 and netball, badminton and volleyball are played enthusiastically and the trampoline is in action throughout the evening.

Bright Start

A very appropriate name for our first exercise on which we embarked in deep snow. Having changed our field organisation we were anxious to see if when the many vehicles, which had been rewired, were joined together, any gremlins appeared. No, there were none to be seen—we just heard a few. However, it didn't take very long to find out why, when the Colonel G.S.' phone was lifted from its cradle, the Artillery Operators intercomm slave was activated.

Apart from the extreme cold it was an interesting exercise and many new lessons were learned and old ones revised. The usual exchange of cartoons, via thermofax, and poems by tape, indicate a wealth of talent.

4 Signal Group, B.F.P.O. 40

The Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) visited us during the snow storms of February, and was accompanied by **Group Captain Vanstone,** R.A.F. **General Anderson** met several old friends on the Headquarters staff including **Harry Smith** and **John Cavill, B.E.M.,** who between them have 48 years' service in Germany in support of Royal Signals. As senior engineers of Telecommunications Group they have been our civilian contacts with the Bundespost and the Continental electronics industry. Between them they know most of the cables from the Maas to the Elbe and from the Moselle north to Kiel.

They and their wives are a corner stone in the garrison. **Audrey Cavill** runs one of the libraries, helps in the Thrift shop and raises a loud and clear voice at the NAAFI meetings.

Harry Smith did much of the planning for Starrnet and Berrnet, thus improving our telephone service a hundredfold, and at the same time saving many thousands of Deutsche Marks in rental charges.

If you wish to know the best trout streams between Rheindahlen and Innsbruck, or require an attractive painting in oils of your favourite beauty spot, then try **Jack Cavill.** On the other hand, if it is night clubs or the best restaurants for dining out on an expense account, then **Smith** is your man.

Their years in Germany have not been wasted!

TWO KEYMEN WHO DO MUCH FOR THE CORPS
Major General Anderson meets two old friends—Harry Smith and Jack Cavill B.E.M. of 4 Signal Group

13 Signal Group (V) hold successful study period

A permanent staff of only five makes it difficult to provide a steady stream of news on their activities in WIRE notes despite the fact that they include or have included rock climbing, sailing, bird watching, shooting and piscatorial sorties.

The Group's study period on 14th/15th February does, however, merit mention. The more Senior Volunteer Officers were discouraged from attending. It's not that we haven't got any, or that we are ashamed of them. It's just that they tend to hog study periods. They also tend to ask difficult questions.

Over a hundred young Volunteer Officers descended on Catterick from all the ends of the group empire to listen to presentations and lectures from guest speakers on every aspect of the Group's new role.

Perhaps the most colourful moment, however, was the guest night when the young Yeomanry, Artillery and Infantry Officers who have just joined us sat down in their Regimental Mess kit at tables laden with silver from their old Regiments. Add to this the charm of our W.R.A.C. Officers and it was a sight for sore eyes. Their eyes too were opened by the excellence of the meal, the service and by the prowess of the Corps Band who really rose to the occasion.

Out of deference to the Commander and his Deputy, **Colonel Iain Wotherspoon,** the Pipe Major and Corporal Piper of 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment played after dinner in the Mess and in the ante room for Highland dancing. Next year **Lieutenant-Colonel Godfrey Curl** and his Welsh Squadron threaten to bring their harps. 38th Regiment and 71st Regiment are brooding and not disclosing their hands.

Present throughout the study period was **General 'Mickie' Whist!er,** as Honorary Colonel of 32nd Scottish Signal Regiment, and **Colonel Grimwood-Taylor,** Honorary Colonel of 38th Signal Regiment. Both had to be restrained from sending signals to the other two Colonels who for business reasons were unable to attend.

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing. The Deputy Commander obviously picked up a useful word during discussion on 're-cuperation phase.' Searching for him after lunch the Commander was told that he had gone for his 're-kipiration.'

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

Rugby

The Regimental Rugby side were beaten 14—9 by the Royal Regiment of Wales in the final of the B.A.O.R. Rugby Cup at Bad Lippspringe on 25th February. After the weeks of preparation and planning, fraught by the most dreadful winter conditions for many years, we at last had the opportunity of taking on the Army champions at the B.A.O.R. Rugby Stadium —a home from home—which was in perfect condition despite the rapid thaw which made the regimental pitch like one of **Corporal Mear's** Yorkshire puddings—horrid.

The game was settling down to one of Welsh flair against a 7th side gradually coming up to true form, when **Sergeant Alan Turner** had to leave the field with a badly damaged arm. The team then had to play one short and as so often has happened in the past the remaining fourteen raised their game, until towards the end the 7th pack were driving the ball through the Welsh. Only tenacious defence prevented **F.O.S. George Hall** scoring, and with a bit of luck skipper **Chris Melhuish** would have been under the posts twice. Still, the wonderful challenge of the Army Cup is that it is final and irreversible, and 'ifs' and 'buts' count as nothing, although they seem to with each successive pint. As they have now introduced substitutes to represent games, the Army might well consider introducing them for cup matches. Special mention should be made of forwards **Sergeant Alan Dunbar, Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins** and **Signalman Pat Lee** who fought furiously to make up for the missing **Turner.** In the backs **Lance-Corporal Sam Mosedale** had a fine game at scrum half, **Joe Chumgilumgi** came back to his true form, whilst **Lieutenant Roger Whitehead** played his best game of the season. Our points came from three penalties by **Corporal Derek Biggs**—one offside, and two **Fox's**—and how we prayed for a **Pat** and a **Roberts!**

To beat the Royal Regiment of Wales with fifteen men would have been a singular achievement. This year it was not to be, and so we look forward to meeting them next season, together with the Welsh Guards, the other Army finalists, who join us in 4th Division shortly.

As part of the cup preparation we travelled down to the Hague to play the Impalas, a side containing many Dutch caps A very worth while game ended 21 points to 6 in the Regiment's favour and an excellent "winder down" was held afterwards in the Hague R.F.C. new clubhouse. For those wives who worry about such weekend trips away from the old ball and chain—your fears are groundless, as the pads are always off to bed soonest. **Trevor Johnson** was first this year, and would like to thank **Dave Higgins** for all the help.

On the social side of the team we would like to say farewell to **Sergeant Alan Dunbar** and his family who are moving to the School for a Yeomans course. On the credit side we welcome **Sergeant Alan Turner** and his wife, and are glad to see she has joined the club.

Opposite we publish a page width photograph of 7th Regiment's rugby team in action, as a small tribute to this keen rugby-playing Regiment who we sincerely hope will bring home the Army Rugby Cup in due course.—Editor.

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

SWINGING IT OUT TO THE THREE QUARTER LINE—7th REGIMENT'S RUGBY TEAM IN ACTION
Lance-Corporal Mosedale feeds the ball to Lance-Corporal James in the final of the B.A.O.R. Rugby competition. After a hard game the 7th Regiment went down fighting by 14 points to 9 to the Royal Regiment of Wales. All will wish them the best of luck for another attempt to get that Cup next season

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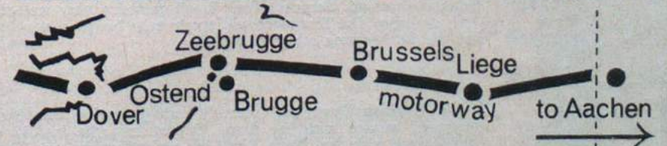

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8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

● ***REGIMENT VERY MUCH TO THE FORE IN SPORTING ACTIVITIES***

Hockey

ON 26th February, at the Command Central Ground, Catterick, the Regiment retained the Northern Command Cup by beating the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate, by 2—0. The scorers were **Sergeant Paddy Hyde** and **Corporal Eng Choon 'Mike' How**; the latter is well-known to hockey enthusiasts in the Far East.

The team are next due to meet the winners of a play-off between Western Command and Northern Ireland on 25th March in the Army (U.K.) semi-final at Catterick.

The team is being captained by **Corporal Peter Havlin.**

There is no doubt that they are benefitting from coaching, training and regular matches against civilian clubs in the north, thanks to the efforts of **Lieutenant Don Reed,** the Hockey Officer.

Soccer

The team have now reached the final of the Northern Command Cup. In the semi-final they convincingly beat 2nd Field Regiment R.A. by 7—1.

The final is against 1st Royal Regiment of Fusiliers—old adversaries, whom the team beat in the final last year. This year they have had a particularly good season, reaching the Army (U.K.) finals, having eliminated the Regiment en route!

In the District Cup, the team beat 9th/12th Lancers by 2—1 in extra time, and 11th Signal Regiment by 5—1, to reach the semi-final stage.

Rugby

The team have once again reach the Command final. Their most recent opponents, 1st Bn. Royal Irish Rangers, were soundly beaten by 18 points to nil in conditions that bordered on being Arctic.

Judo

Judo is yet another sport encouraged in the Regiment. There have been two events of note during the past month.

On 26th February, the club held a grading contest, when members competed under the eagle eye of Black Belt, 3rd Dan, **Corporal Robert James** (who, incidentally, is a physiotherapist at Catterick Military Hospital!). Twelve club members successfully earned orange or yellow belts.

The evening concluded with the Judo Officer, **Major Brian Weston,** giving a demonstration of unarmed combat with the help (?) of two club members, **Lance-Corporals Paul Lee** and **Cherry Christie,** as more than willing opponents.

In the Northern Command Inter-Unit Team and Individual Championships, the Regiment won the team event and **Lance-Corporal Lee** the middleweight individual event.

Cross-country running

At the close of the season, the team can look back with some satisfaction at its achievements. They have won the Northern Command Championship, the District League and competed in the Army Championships, gaining an 11th placing out of 12. Our congratulations are offered to 21st Regiment on being runners-up. **Sergeant Paul Brazil** gained a very well-run 15th position. The Regiment will sorely miss his presence during the forthcoming athletics season.

Retirement

Mr. Norman Davey has recently retired, having completed 31 years' service with the Army Department, the last 12 of which were with the Corps. Until his retirement, he was Chief Clerk of 1 Squadron.

His retirement was marked by a presentation by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass,** on behalf of the military and civilian staff of a suitably inscribed clock.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

P.E. Tests—again

THE February air throbbed to the tramp of boots DMS, the hearty cursing of men hauled into the sunlight, blinking, after a winter's hibernation, and the Second-in-Command galloping hither and thither, muttering threats—the Regiment was doing P.E. tests again.

"Now listen, boyos," said our C.S.M.I., **W.O.II Glynn Morris** (a Welsh P.T.I., for heaven's sake), "these P.E. tests are a piece of cake. It's just a question of mind over matter . . . I don't mind and you don't matter." Never mind though, the chaps in the R.A.F. units down the road thought it was wonderful, watching the soldiers do their stuff: "Ha, ha, marching again?" said one as another group of cursing soldiery tramped past. "Yes," said a voice, "we do our bit; now let's see you fly."

Band shows

Two wonderful sessions of entertainment came our way during February. First was a performance put on by 46 members of the Band of 3rd Bn. The Parachute Regiment; they've been touring the Near East with a show called 'Bandshow '70.' It was a superbly funny evening of entertainment in the style of a cabaret floor show, which included a court martial 'skit' to a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan, which was really hilarious.

The second session was rather more serious, and given by the Band of 3rd Bn. The Royal Anglian Regiment. They showed just how flexible military bands can be, with tunes from John Lennon, Glen Miller, Bernstein, and many others. They even downed their instruments and sang. Again, a wonderful piece of entertainment.

Take our advice, if you get a chance to see either of these shows, don't miss them, they are well worth seeing and hearing.

Getting all physical

The Regiment was too pear-shaped, decided our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** everyone had to get fit. Consequently, a high-pitched buzzing noise could be heard for miles around as people rushed to and fro getting fit—playing sport, circuit training, and so on. Then 2 Squadron cottoned on, and the following order was published in their Part I's: "A practice session for five-a-side football will be held on the beach outside the Alasia Hotel . . . "

'Happiness is pear-shaped' seems to be the motto.

Sailing Club

A little while ago our Sailing Club suffered something of a setback when they were asked to leave the site which they had occupied for some years on the beach in Famagusta; some land lubber wants to build on that bit of land.

It put the club in a bit of a quandry at first, but in the long run they've been done a good turn. Those of you who know Famagusta, will probably know the Manastiri. It's a huge house on the beach, just outside Famagusta, built in the old Spanish haçienda style, and the Sailing Club has taken over the bottom two floors as a club house! Quite obviously it's going to be the most luxurious sailing club on the island, with a bar, changing room, bridge and many other mod cons. A sort of desirable residence for a sail.

Sport

The Regiment's rugby team played a needle match against the Headquarters, U.N., and won 17—10, after a very hard fought game. 1 Squadron are currently lying second in the Minor Units Football League. The Minor Units Cross-Country Championships proved to be a walkover for 1 Squadron, getting all eight runners home in the first twelve (**Lance-Corporal Peter Ellis,** 2nd, and **Lance-Corporal Duncan Bailey,** 3rd). Squash, badminton, basketball and hockey are still going strong, and, believe it or not, there was someone at the cricket nets yesterday.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

● ***FAREWELL CEREMONIES ON DEPARTURE OF BRIGADIER F. L. CLARKSON***

Dined out

BRIGADIER CLARKSON was formally dined out of the Mess on Tuesday, 17th February, and the occasion proved to be quite a memorable one for all concerned.

The Royal Signals Staff Band were there to provide music during dinner and this was done in their usual excellent fashion. The 'party-piece,' after dinner, being very entertaining.

The evening obviously triggered off many happy and nostalgic memories for the Brigadier, and this was borne out in his after-dinner speech, which was somewhat restricted, due to the fact that there were ladies present.

The Brigadier was then called upon to display or prove his musical capabilities and join the band, playing the 'Swanee Whistle,' which was presented to him after dinner. It is whispered that he had been practising in secret, for the band very nearly had a new member, the 'Swanee Whistle' obviously being one of the Brigadier's many talents. The audience was kept well entertained and amused.

The evening followed a normal 'liquid' course of events, and by the time the Brigadier was leaving, everyone was well warmed (inside) against the elements—a great necessity, as there was several inches of snow on the ground. Catterick is becoming more like Siberia every day. The three Assistant Adjutants from 8th, 11th and 24th Regiments, **Lieutenants Leslie Day, Jenny Baker** and **Kathy Johnson,** then changed their evening shoes for more practical fur-lined boots, as they were to accompany the Brigadier on the drive back to Druggon House in an open trap—this being open to the wind and snow. Instead of the normal horse-power being used to pull the trap, man-power was used in the shape of six 'able-bodied' subalterns from the three Regiments; other officers providing their services as torch-bearers. The health of the three Assistant Adjutants as well looked after in the form of a bottle of champagne.

Mrs. Clarkson was presented with an awe-inspiring sight from the top floor of Druggon House, as the torchlit procession made its way from the Mess. The men, looking resplendent in their mess kits, provided a vivid splash of colour against the white background. Everyone was in good form and lustily airing their vocal chords.

The Brigadier had had a rousing farewell.

Final parade

Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E., the Commander of the Royal Signals Training Brigade, took the salute at a farewell

GOODBYE TO CATTERICK
Brigadier Clarkson inspecting the Farewell Parade on the occasion of his departure from the Training Brigade

parade on Friday, 20th February. On parade were No. 5 Troop, the passing-off Troop of 11th Regiment, supported by a contingent from Continuation Training Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant P. J. Myatt.** Also on parade were detachments of specialist communications vehicles and crews from 8th and 24th Regiments. The White Helmets and the full Band of the Corps completed the line-up on parade. After the inspection, the recruits marched past in line and then advanced in review order and gave a general salute. The parade concluded with a march-past, in column, by the recruits, followed by a drive-past of vehicles, the motor-cycles of the White Helmets, and, bringing up the rear, the Corps Band. To commemorate the completion of his tour of duty, the Brigade Commander planted a 'Sellulata Hisakura' (flowering cherry) outside the information and reception centre, a custom started at the opening of the barracks, six years ago.

Band Concert

A concert was held on 24th February in St. Martin's Garrison Church in support of the 'Feed the Minds' campaign. This also marked the bi-centenary of the birth of Beethoven. Taking part were members of the Corps Band, assisted by musicians from the bands of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment (Norfolk and Suffolk), the 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

A large audience enjoyed works by Holst, Handel, Bach, Sir William Walton and, of course, Beethoven, his fifth symphony.

The programme was conducted by **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** Director of Music, Royal Signals Staff Band, Bandmaster Carter, 9th/12th Lancers, and Bandmaster Hibbs, 1 D.E.R.R. The guest conductor was **Captain T. L. Sharpe, M.B.E.,** the Director of Music to the Coldstream Guards.

The programme was very well chosen and obviously enjoyed by the musicians taking part, as it allowed them to express their talents over a greater range of music.

The audience enjoyed the evening tremendously, the occasion proving once again what a splendid band we have, flourishing under the Director, **Captain Boulding.**

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

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

WE did mention our newly-renovated Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess in our last contribution to THE WIRE. As one Warrant Officer was heard to remark: "After ten months—or was it ten years—it was like coming back to a palace." It was worth the inconvenience, as the new Mess is now bigger, more comfortable and a well-deserved good home for our Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers. "We are HOME and WET and happy."

The first major function, after the Mess was officially opened on 9th January, was a Regimental dinner on 30th January, to say farewell to our Quartermaster, **Major Allan French, B.E.M.** It was a splendid evening, and we are sure all those who know **Major French** will join us in wishing him and his wife, **'Teddy,'** all the very best during their short stay with 233 Squadron before retirement.

A grand opening ball was held on 21st February, and some 80 guests were invited including the Commanding Officer and **Mrs. Baldwin,** the officers and their wives and a number of friends from our neighbouring Royal Signals Regiments. It was a great pleasure to be 'At Home' to so many of our friends. The members of the Mess are very grateful to the President of the Mess Committee, **W.O.II Ken Kennington,** the members of the committee and for the magnificent buffet prepared by **W.O. Joe Kavanagh** and his staff and the excellent service provided by **Corporal 'Jock' Fairley,** the waiters and the girls of our W.R.A.C. Troop.

Junior Ranks' Mess

It is said "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach" and our catering staff are evidently very aware of this. We entered the Rhine Area Cookery Competition on 19th February. Our team, commanded by **W.O. Joe Kavanagh** and consisting of **Lance-Corporal Brian Bates** and **Keith Howard,** were runners-up in the team event and **Corporal Mick Jones** came second in the individual event.

We have always been proud of our soldiers' dining room and were very pleased to be declared the winners of the Rhine Area Competition.

Congratulations to all our caterers and to **Captain Alf Reed,** our Messing Officer and O.C. H.Q. Squadron.

'Dwile Flonking'

Has anybody tried this strange old Suffolk game? We have, and one poor individual walked into it!

"Whilst walking past the gymnasium one bitter sports afternoon in February, I was quite alarmed at suddenly being roughly seized on the windward side. Turning to fix my assailant with the famous 'excused games' glacial squint, I observed before me no wrathful Nemisis, but the blubbering, quivering wreck of a once-stalwart physicial training instructor: "Come, my good fellow," I said, "you may speak your mind to me."

At this the wretched man pointed at the gymnasium, mouthing unintelligibly, and then fell senseless to the ground. Overcoming my distaste at this unmanly exhibition, I hastened towards that 'Mecca for Muscle,' the gymnasium, sensing intrigue.

The sight which there greeted my astonished gaze is one that will haunt me to the grave, if not beyond. A band of fifteen or so evil-looking, ill-clad sub-specimens of humanity were leaping and dancing in a circle to the accompaniment of bestial grunts and incarnations.

"Have I unwittingly stumbled on some dark satanic ritual?" I wondered, when a beer-sodden dish-cloth hit me smack across the face.

"Well I be . . . 'tis a clear Morther!" growled a throaty voice from near at hand.

"A Morther! A Morther! A clear Morther!" The cry was taken up and shouted at me from all sides. Just then, my hands were seized and I was dragged forward into the circle of honour. All went quiet, and a sinister voice from the background said:

"Ware the Flonker. One Swadge and its the pot. Dwyle away, men."

"Dwyle away!" repeated the mob, beginning their frenetic gyrations. It was then that I noticed the man in the centre of the circle. He had a curious wrought stick or stave, at the end of which dangled the beed-sodden dish-cloth already mentioned. This projectile was suddenly loosed with deadly intent at my head. I ducked rather niftily and it hit the floor to the cries of "Pot! Pot! Pot!"

"That be two Swadges, men," intoned the dreadful background voices, which brought on a bout of rhythmic stamping. I quite felt I was getting the hang of the thing when a menial figure emerged from the shadows bearing an earthen pot full of a dark-brown bubbling concoction which the man in the centre had to drink before the dish-cloth had completed one circle passing from hand to hand.

And that was it. Silence, then "Dwyle away," and off we started again. I'm quite good at it now; strangely enough, it's called "Dwyle Flonking."

14th Signal Regiment, Worcester

Monday, 16th February

Operator: "14th Signal Regiment."
Caller: "C.O., please."
Operator: "Sorry sir, **Colonel Baker** is at Ashford on a study period."
Caller: "Well, Second-in-Command, please."
Operator: "I'm afraid **Major Galbraith** is away at Gloucester today on a recce, sir."
Caller: "Oh well, just give me the Adjutant then."
Operator: "**Captain Bye** is away at Portsmouth today, sir."
Caller: "I'll speak to the Assistant Adjuant, in that case."
Operator: "Sorry again, sir, **Lieutenant Symmons** is at Chester on Junior Officers' Education."
Caller: "Perhaps the Technical Adjutant could help me."
Operator: "**Captain Kerr** is flying to Gan today, sir. Sorry."
Caller: "O.C. 1 Squadron?"
Operator: "**Major Postlethwaite** is visiting his detachment in Cyprus, sir."
Caller: "O.C. 2 Squadron?"
Operator "I'm afraid **Major Reynolds** is in B.A.O.R. on a recce, sir."
Caller: "O.C. 3 Squadron?"
Operator: "**Major Newman** is at Christchurch visting a detached Troop, sir."
Caller: "O.C. 602 Troop?"
Operator: "**Captain Funnell** is ski-ing in Scotland, sir—an adventure training exercise."
Caller: "Is there anyone I can speak to then?"
Operator: "Well, the R.S.M. is taking all calls, sir, but I'm afraid that **Mr. Rumsey's** line is engaged at the moment."

1 Squadron, 'Alpha' Troop

Exercise 'Cauldron' produces good results and some play as well

SINCE our last WIRE NOTES we have swapped troop commanders with 'Bravo' Troop, our new O.C. being **Second-Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose.** A new O.C., a short practice exercise at the School of Signals, and we were off on our first major exercise outside of the U.K.

The troop arrived at Akrotiri in two 'Hercs' of R.A.F. Transport Command, were met by the advance party in the form of **W.O.I. (F. of S.) Jim Dunlevy** and **Sergeant Andy 'Haircuts' Jamieson,** and then taken by road to Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area, our exercise location.

Setting up of the equipment took slightly longer than usual due to the rocky terrain which resisted all attempts to drive 'T' stakes into it. Our masts were eventually erected, but only at the expense of blistered hands, some peculiar expressions and an electric hammer.

Phase one, a relatively short haul working into Comcen Siggiewi, Malta, was very successful, traffic availability being in the 70 per cents for most of the time.

Phase two, a slightly longer haul to Boddington, was again reasonably successful with traffic in the 60 per cents.

Phase three, our longest haul, to Mauritius, proved the most successful of the lot, an excellent 86 per cent being achieved on the first day, to the consternation of **Mr. Ambrose,** who had been conned into wagering a barrel of beer if we could achieve 50 per cent traffic in any one day. Two further barrels were offered, one by the F. of S. for three days in a row with

LEISURE MOMENTS DURING EXERCISE CAULDRON
Relaxing in the Cyprus sunshine are (*left to right*): 2nd Lieutenant John Ambrose, Sergeant Dave Diamond, Sergeant Robert Bates and W.O.I. (F. of S.) Jim Dunlevy

50 per cent and one by our Squadron Commander for four days in a row. These were achieved and we now look forward to the Troop party when they will be consumed with great pleasure.

Co-operation between ourselves and the other two Services was of the highest and, thanks to **Sergeant Bob Bates** convincing 262 Signal Squadron that their signals would get through quicker using our service, quite a lot of live traffic was passed over our link.

During the exercise we had a constant stream of visitors, including the Commander, 3rd Signal Group, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E. Captain May** (ex-Bravo Troop) was amazed at our smart shelters and did a bit of lampswinging about the old days and roughing it under the old type of shelters. We were very pleased to see our friends from 12 S.U. Episcopi and gave them a conducted tour of our site. They left with a new insight into the type of people who exercise to them.

During phase three, **Corporal John Blaylock** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Pennington** celebrated their birthdays, **'Taff'** getting the key of the door and **John** getting closer to the second one. A night out in Limassol was arranged, transport provided by courtesy of 262 Signal Squadron, and about 10 members of the Troop went off to see if they could drink Limassol dry.

Tuning the receivers the following day was not a pleasant experience! A night out with 644 Signal Troop at Nicosia is also planned, plus a visit to the Keo Beer Factory before reluctantly returning to the somewhat cooler climate of the U.K.

Our thanks to **Signalmen Evans, Jones** and **Saunders** of 30th Signal Regiment for the work they did during the exercise. No ZES 2's at all.

602 Signal Troop (Special Communications)

WHAT happens when one is posted to 602 Signal Troop? According to **Corporal Jim Wootton,** our chief scribe, you either get promoted, married or upgraded. Sometimes all three things happen, so we offer our congratulations, on promotion to: **Geoff Hamlin, Alec Janaway, 'Scouse' Landsborough, Don Seymour, Pete Findell, Keith Teasdale, Ian Blake, Dave Wools, Pete Weston** and **Bob Scott;** on marriage to: **'Scouse' Landsborough, Ian Blake, 'Jock' Kerr, Pete Weston, Gordon Motherwell, Sid Chaplin, Kev Durkin** and **Len Harvey;** on A.1. to: **Len Harvey, Pete Findell** and **Scobie Beeslee;** and on B.1. to **Jim Wootton;** and these are only the recent ones!

It is interesting to note that we have no less than 24 Class One tradesmen in the Troop and are hoping that **Paul Child, 'Scouse' Landsborough, George Stubbings, Keith Teasdale** and **Alec Janaway** are going to add to the list on their return from Catterick.

A little news from our men overseas.

It would appear that **Dave Black** has learnt a little more about the German traffic laws, and that the German translation

of 'Radar Speed Trap Ahead' means exactly what it says. During November members of this detachment had the greatest difficulty resisting the offers for their Jerseys, Heavy Duty Wool, and that was from members of the W.R.A.C.

How far behind the front line is H.Q. B.A.O.R.? It would appear that the only sound of 'Gunfire' heard on Christmas morning in Rheindahlen was that fired by **Sergeant 'Tam' MacDonald,** whether by design or accident is not clearly established. **Corporal Terry Budden** has since relieved **'Tam'** and has settled down well.

The lads in Cyprus are working hard. Although **Brian Hunter** doesn't qualify for a Purple Heart for getting appendicitis, he has earned the undying gratitude of **John Floyd,** who was only back to duty for three days before being sent off again to rejoin the detachment. I wonder if somewhere a little bird is singing?

We are grateful for the system of Lukfree leave from Bahrein, as most of those entitled to it visit us and keep us up to date with what is going on out there. **Sergeant Denis Hemingway** and **'Ginger' Leach** were the last ones and both looked fit and well. It must be something to do with the weather out there. **George Salvona** is back in the fold at Worcester and let us hope that he can stay long enough this time to get his feet under the table.

Jim Browne and **Harry Butler** have just been posted in from 633 Signal Troop (Nassau) after making a four week tour of the United States, which they both enjoyed immensely.

The Troop is now well established in Worcester and in general it is thought to be a big improvement on Gloucester, but it is a long walk back from the bus stop after a night out.

Recently we had a exercise in Scotland and **Staff Sergeant Colin Meredith** accompanied by **'Geordie' Lonsdale, Bob Scott, Andy Fyvie** and **Andy Drew** made a successful base camp which, despite repeated calls for mouse traps, appeared to be almost luxury after two or three days over the hills. Quite a few people had their first attempts at using skis, which caused a good laugh all round. The conditions in Scotland were rather 'hairy' at times, but a number of lessons were learned, and the exercise must therefore be considered successful.

Now we are moving into the busy season and it will be many people in many places, so, if you want to get around — join us.

Help!

In October, 1969, learning that S.S.A.F.A. Worcester needed help to raise funds, the Regiment decided to do its bit.

By the end of January, 1970, we had raised and handed over:

£14 from an All Ranks Dance draw;
£15 from a 'Throw a custard pie at the R.S.M.' raffle;
£8 from a Wives Club coffee morning;
£1 from the sale of holly;
£14 from a White Elephant stall organised by the Wives Club at a S.S.A.F.A. coffee morning;
£10 from a Sergeants' Mess Ball raffle plus two handsome prizes from the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw.

We reckon £62 in just over three months isn't too bad, but are still looking for new ideas to help those (S.S.A.F.A.) who help us (the Services) so much.

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

Rugby—strong shoulders and a bus requiring spiritual assistance

IN spite of last-minute attempts at cancellation, the Rugby Club managed to go international and finish the first half of a useful season with a week-end fixture against the Hague Rugby Club.

The team, plus supporters, left Bradbury Barracks in the now infamous P.R.I. bus, driven by **Corporal 'Scouse' Savage,** and made The Hague in good time. All of us moved into two dubious-looking hotels near the station, previously booked by the Secretary, **Sergeant Bob Ryan,** R.A.O.C. (attached to the Regiment). When the team went out for a quick recce of the town, Bob was a little under the weather, but his head began to feel worse when the team captain, **Lieutenant Ron Abbott,** received 'phone calls from two further hotels claiming that a certain **Mr. Ryan** had booked accommodation in them as well. This was sorted out in the morning, despite vociferous threats to call in the Embassy.

On Saturday we decided that, regardless of snow and hard ground, the game had to be played to justify the effort of having come all the way to The Hague.

The match started with a professional Dutch photographer running on the pitch to take shots; this continued while the game was in progress. The team played well and made up for its bad luck in losing in the final of the Rhine Area Army Cup. We won 17—3.

"So what?" the reader might ask. "All very well, but why is this article headed as it is?" Quite simply, the next day the transport would not start. "We will push start it," suggested **Sergeant Pete Stuart** and **Sergeant 'Chalky' White.** The whole team, except for **Signalman 'Taff' Thomas,** who was stuck in a pair of clogs, came to lend a shoulder, but still the bus would not start. In the end, **Sergeant Ryan** had the answer. He pulled out a bottle of whisky and announced that the plugs must need a clean. The whisky was ceremoniously poured into a mug and used to clean the plugs. Unbelievably, the bus shuddered and moved on. However, twenty miles from home, on the return journey, the effects of the whisky died off. Players again pushed, but to no avail, and 'Dutch courage' obviously would not help the plugs in Germany. Relief arrived and the team eventually reached barracks. Luckily there had been the same strong spirit left to keep the lads going to the end!

Verdict on the trip: All players voted it a great success, but next time the team would use another bus.

Finally . . .

In accordance with Q.R.s, a certain Squadron Commander set an example of how a haircut should look—it cost him 3 marks plus a half-hour in the barber's chair to repair the damage—he had looked like a cross between a 'golliwog' and the 'Last of the Mohicans' . . . his office is now know as 'Pierres.'

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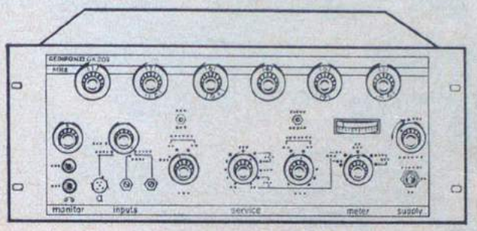
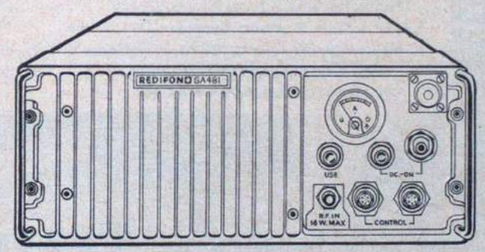
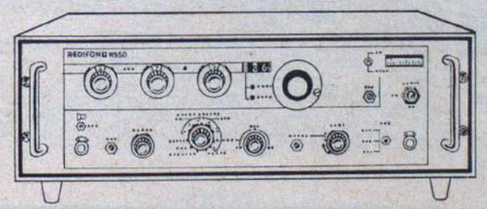


GK.203. Frequency synthesis drive unit. 1.5-30 MHz in 100 Hz increments. 17 modes of transmission, including ISB if specified.



GA.481. 100-watt linear amplifier, broad-band 1.5-30 MHz. No tuning or loading. Automatic protection against any mismatch (from open- to short-circuit aerial) or excessive drive. Easily portable, will operate direct from vehicle supply.



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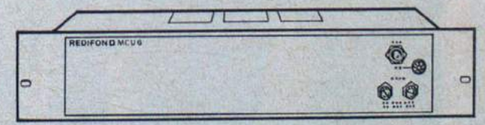

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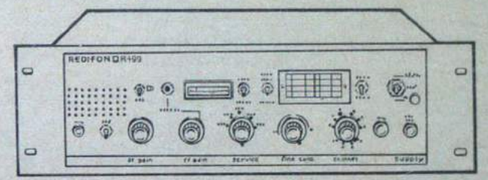

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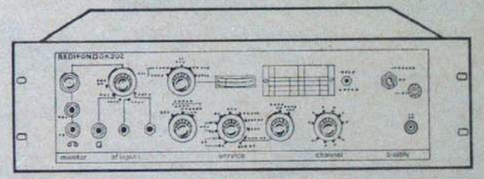

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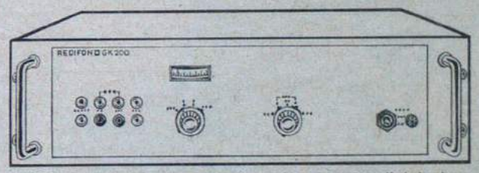

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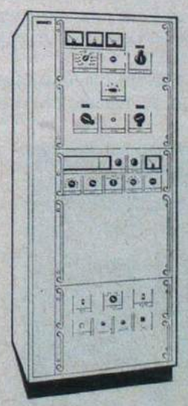

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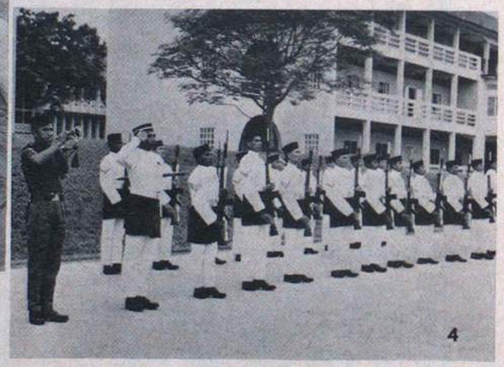
2. The S.O. in C. meets Sergeant D. J. Lowe
3. Second-Lieutenant G. Gordon explains an exercise to the S.O. in C. whilst Staff-Sergeant J. A. Scrutton and Sergeant D. J. Lowe look on



4. Regimental Quarter Guard, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Othman Bin Tasi in charge, with some of our Malay soldiers and a Gurkha bugler on loan from 1/2 K.E.O. Gurkha Rifles
5. S.H.Q. Troop 249 Signal Squadron with the Champion Lance
6. The G.O.C. speaks with Corporal H. C. Weedy, Captain of the Regimental Football Team

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

THE month of February in 18th Signal Regiment was marked by two special occasions, and the scheduled, but hardly expected, return of **Lieutenant Mike Patterson** from Australia (see elsewhere in this issue).

Firstly, on 10th February, the G.O.C., Singapore District, **Major-General D. N. H. Tyacke, C.B., O.B.E.,** visited the Regiment for the annual Fitness for Role Inspection. The day was particularly significant for the G.O.C., as it was in many ways his farewell to the Regiment. He is shortly due to retire, and it offered him the opportunity to see an unusual parade of personnel and vehicles drawn up on the parade ground, dressed an equipped for their normal everyday duties. Best kit, of course! The wide variety of tasks and occupations in the Regiment such as this was therefore dramatically portrayed, and the display was obviously much appreciated. The good report and many complimentary remarks were certainly not entirely due to a minor shunt between the G.O.C.'s and C.O.'s staff cars during the course of the tour round the estate.

Our second big occasion was the visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief, on 24th February, during the course of his Far East tour. Apart from the military aspects, the main social occasions were the dinner night in the Princess Mary Officers' Mess, when eighty-eight officers and their distinguished guests sat down to the accompaniment of the Band of the Far East Air Force, and the cocktail party in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. On the military side, the General toured the communications and administrative facilities in Tanglin and Dover Road areas, meeting many members of the Regiment; he also saw a deployment demonstration by 249 Signal Squadron.

The location, Colombo Heath, is all of two miles from base, and at least 500 miles nearer to home than any previous exercise in recent years! Elements of the Squadron were deployed to represent a typical J.F.H.Q. layout in the field. The Sappers kindly lent us some plant to dig-in the Gurkha radio relay detachments and to produce a camp circuit to rival the M.I. After much preparation, with circuits 'through,' detachments immaculately camouflaged, save for the large black and white signs to guide the visitors, and the Squadron canteen established, all was made ready.

Following a briefing by the Squadron Commander, Major H. **G. Mackinlay,** and the Squadron Operations Adjutant, **Captain D. T. Burton,** the S.O.-in-C. viewed the whole Squadron layout from a convenient hill. He then toured the various detachments. The proof of the communications also worked was in the successful passing of a message (much to the relief of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Nugent** and **Sergeant A. W. Boag**) over a D13 link to the Australian Director of Signals in Melbourne. The tour completed, the S.O.-in-C.'s party left in two Land Rovers of 'C' Troop, for which **Lieutenant J. C. Young** had been able to provide the appropriate stars. A repeat performance, later in the day, for the Army Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hunt, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** accompanied by the parties of staff officers, was also a success and Squadron members were delighted to see several members of the 'guilded staff' lose a little weight scrambling up and down hills between exhibits.

SPORT

Association Football

To allow the Football Officer to view the talent available for the coming season, both the Anderson Cup and Lyons Cup competitions took place in the close season. The Lyons Cup was won, predictably, by 'A' Troop, who outclassed 'D' Troop in the final by 4—1. The Anderson Cup was won, surprisingly, by Tanglin Troop, who beat a star-studded Island Troop by 2—1. The clash between the winners, for the Dover Road Charity Shield, was in keeping with previous tussles for this trophy—good, clean soccer, with always the maximum of endeavour and, not infrequently, spells of very good football. 'A' Troop emerged the winners by 4—1 (a hat-trick by **Lance-Corporal Harry Million** and one by **Signalman Sid Davison,** to a solitary goal by **Lance-Corporal Keith Hawkins**). Although Tanglin Troop were decisively beaten in the end, they never gave up and never allowed 'A' Troop, with five 1st XI players, to rest on their laurels. Outstanding for Tanglin Troop were **Corporal 'Mac' McKenzie,** in goal, and **Mr. George Smart,** in defence. Of some very fine individual performances by 'A' Troop players, perhaps the best were those of **Corporal Pat Gallagher** and **Lance-Corporal Tommy Gore.** The Charity Shield and individual trophies were presented by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild.**

Basketball

In the final of the Singapore District Knockout Cup, the Regimental team met 40 Commando, Royal Marines, and the result was a very satisfactory win for the Regiment by 48 points to 38.

The Regimental side, led by **Lance-Corporal Bell,** attacked from the start and established an early lead. The pressure was maintained, and some fine attacking play, in which **Lance-Corporal Bell, Sergeant Meredith** and **Signalman Francis Lee** were prominent, produced a commanding lead. **Lance-Corporal More** and **Signalmen Bruce** and **Stan'ey worked** extremely hard in their positions and contributed towards a notable victory.

Having won the Singapore District Cup, the team now go to Hong Kong, where they meet 1/6 Gurkha Rifles in the final of the FARELF Competition.

Badminton

The Singapore District Championships were held in the Nuffield Badminton Hall from 4th to 20th February, and altogether, 163 ties were played.

In the British men's singles events, **Staff Sergeant Hall** and **Sergeant Brown** played extremely well to get into the last eight. Both had met strong players, and **Staff Sergeant Hall** was beaten by **Staff Sergeant Hatch,** R.C.T., who later qualified for the finals.

The Malayan section produced only one player from the Regiment in the last eight, this being **Corporal Zabidi,** who played extremely well against a top-flight badminton player.

In the ladies' events **Mrs. Patricia Burton** played good consistent badminton to reach the finals, where she met **Sergeant J. Kemp,** W.R.A.C. This was a closely-contested match, with Mrs. Burton emerging as the winner and becoming the Singapore District Ladies' Badminton Champion.

Coming attractions

Much activity is evident in many departments, with plans for this year's fun-fair, which we hope will be the biggest ever to mark the 50th anniversary of the Corps. Details of some of the star attractions will appear in a later issue—so watch this space.

19th Signal Regiment
c/o GPO Singapore

The Festive Season—Far East Style

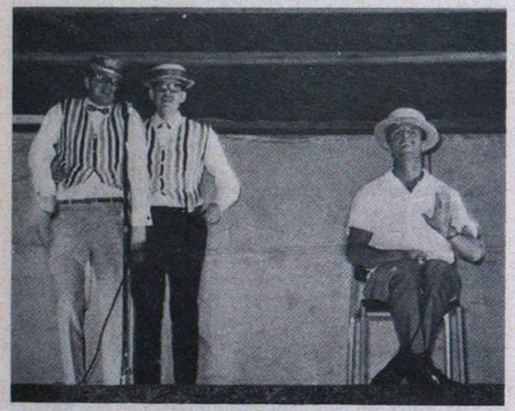
THOSE who have served in the Far East will remember that the combination of Lunar Calendar and Gregorian Calendar can lead to a fairly extended festive season, around the close of the year. The season which closed on 20th February, with Chap Goh Meh, the last fifteen days' celebration of Chinese New Year, began on 10th December, with Hari Raya Puasa, the end of Ramadan and the beginning of the Muslim Feasting Month. In the middle was Christmas, we think. It was more than usually exciting this year, since it also covered a change of command and an administrative inspection.

The Regimental Concert

This year, also, we decided to do something new in the festivity line. Inspired by two impromptu camp concerts at Mersing Training Camps over the last two years, we decided to have a full Regimental concert. Troops went into rehearsal in November, but a very tight social calendar put the show off and off. Fortunately, morale remained high, and the final show was a great success. We append a few notes for the guidance of any other unit thinking on the same lines.

A SPLASH OF COLOUR

Sergeant Mohammed Yusoff's fashion parade was one of the highlights of the Regimental Concert. For splashes of gorgeous colour, this parade left the Paris fashion salons far behind



FUNNY MEN

Fast cross talk patter between Thacker and Cornball (Corporals Bird and McAuley) was a high spot at the Regimental concert. They finished their act with a soft shoe shuffle accompaniced by S.S.I. Roberts (right) on his melody spoons

The stage was a flat-bed 3-ton trailer, with a proscenium arch and wings made of 4 x 2 and hessian. The location, for those who know the Regimental lines, was at the end of C6 in Camp Askar 2 Bujang, with the stage facing the Morgan Block. This enabled us to use the verandahs of the Morgan Block as stalls, dress circle and 'gods.' We had such a fine clear night that most of the audience sat in chairs on the grass between the buildings.

The show opened with an attractive, but beefy, chorus line led by **Captain Bernard Strange** and **S.S.M. Bob Isaac,** of Seletar (Sunshine) Troop, complete with scurrilous verses about the Second-in-Command's 'jam butties,' the inadequacy of the Q.M. Stores, and went on with a series of sketches, band sessions, etc.

Special mention must be made of **Sergeant Mohammed Yusoff's** fashion show (see photo). Dressed in a splendid blue and silver Malayan festival costume, Baju Malay Dan Songkit, he introduced colleagues in a variety of other national costumes. Another high spot was a crosstalk act between 'Messrs. Thacker and Cornball' (**Corporals Bird** and **McAuley** from Microwave). Sample: "Why did the chicken cross the road?" "To see the Lady Mayoress lay a foundation stone!" They finished with a soft-shoe shuffle, accompanied by **S.S.I. Roberts** on his 'melody spoons.' The final main sketch was a very explicit surgical operation, performed by the LEPs of Seletar Troop. This was complete with gouts of blood, panic in the surgical team and weepings and wailings from a distraught husband—and was still very funny.

Altogether, a very successful evening, showing once again that a lively Regiment can do anything if it puts its collective talents to work.

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Change of Command

During the week 19th to 24th January we had the usual hail and farewell parties as **Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert** took over command of the Regiment from **Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Thursby-Pelham.** The three major events were a Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess dinner (held in the R.A.F. Changi Sergeants' Mess, but a completely Regimental function); a Regimental cocktail party, organised by the officers of the Regiment, and held in R.A.F. Changi Temple Hill Officers' Mess, but again a Regimental function; and a Chinese New Year dinner, organised by the Chinese soldiers and civilians in the Regiment, and held in Prince's Restaurant on Collyer Quay.

Next Year

From the calendar it appears that the British, Muslim and Chinese festival seasons overlap rather more than they did this year. This will simply concentrate the action and fill up the social diary completely. To those who will be here—the very best of luck!

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 43

As always seems to happen in the months following a 'Fitness for Role' inspection, an atmosphere of calm routine has settled over the Regiment. Two sporting achievements are of such a level that they have had considerable cover elsewhere, and robbed the writer of his 'cream.'

Cross-country

A full report appears elsewhere in this edition of the team's efforts this season, culminating in second place in the Army Championships. As they have ascended the ladder this season, so their venues seem to get further from the unit, nevertheless, their achievements have been closely followed and all concerned are congratulated.

Cresta run

Major John Harwood was again selected to represent the Army in the Inter-Services' Event for the Prince Philip Cup on 4th February. During the meeting he won the Baron Oertzen Cup in an individual handicap race, competing against the top world competitors. It was confirmed that his three runs last year won for him the 'Freshman's Cup' for 1969. It is unfortunate that his efforts have left their mark on one knee, which is still receiving periodic attacks from a surgeon's knife.

LIKE TO HAVE A GO AT THIS?

Major John Harwood, of the Corps, at the start of the Cresta Run. Speeds of 80 m.p.h. are reached and the only braking is from the spikes in the soles of his boots

Comings and goings

Having said in last month's notes that no officers had left, the writer of past notes, **Major Leif Welton,** has departed—I think—after four years as Second-in-Command of the Regiment. We kept on dining him out (three times!) but he still reappeared in the office next day, and even now, he has only gone 40 miles away, to take up a post in H.Q., NORTHAG. He has left several marks on the station and the Regiment, perhaps the biggest was the 'Phoenix Theatre,' which he built from a bare hall, and where he subsequently produced several plays. The Sation Commander has announced his intention to rename the theatre the 'Welton Theatre,' in appreciation of his hard work.

We wish him and **Rosemary** a happy tour in the hub of B.A.O.R.

His relief, **Major John Cox,** and his wife, **Brenda,** have arrived from Harrogate just in time for the shooting season!

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

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

Event of the month

THIS must have undoubtedly been the announcement, on 25th February, of the new pay scheme for the Services. Although no signs of jubilation were visible, the effect can probably be related to the increased willingness to take to the field at the drop of a hat, despite still inclement weather conditions.

It is probably stretching the imagination too far to credit our Q.M. (Admin.), **Major Jim Gosling,** with 'pulling off' a propaganda coup, inasmuch that the redecoration of the soldiers' living accommodation has just got into full swing at a time only a few weeks before the 'rent collector' appears on the scene.

Taking the field

The Regiment continues to ahere to the policy of exercising once every fortnight. Exercise 'Refresher I,' in the early part of the month, was a Regimental exercise with all three operational Squadrons deployed. This was followed, in the third week of the month, by the deployment of 1 and 2 Squadrons on Exercise 'Winter Sales.' **Captain John Barrett** and his merry 2 Squadron personnel had to suffer the extremely cold climatic conditions in the field. 1 Squadron were more fortunate, being able to sample the comforts of H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps peace location whilst provisioning communications for the higher/lower Exercise Control H.Q.

Exercise 'Snow Queen' concludes

Lieutenant George Carmichael and his permanent staff have now returned to the unit, having 'pulled stumps' at the Bavarian chalet which has served over the past three months as the unit Exercise 'Snow Queen' centre. We feel that this venture has once again been highly successful and 90 soldiers have been introduced to ski-ing and trained to move competently across country on skis during this time.

The interest in ski-ing within the Regiment is now high, and this is in no small measure due to the sterling efforts in training by **Lieutenant Carmichael, Sergeant Hardaker** and **Lance-Corporal Burnett.** Further, the increased success of the Regimental ski team, ably led by **Second-Lieutenant Philip Tilson,** has shown that determined effort and dedication to succeed pays dividends—the team reached the B.A.O.R. Meeting for the first time ever this year—well done!

Black Belts, Brown Belts, Yellow . . .

Not an inventory for Marks & Spencers clothing department, but a lead-in to the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships. In this event, the Regiment did particularly well, gaining the overall third position. The unit was represented by **Second-Lieutenant Derek Howshall, Lance-Corporal Jobson, Lance-Corporal Oliver, Signalman Frampton and Signalman Bisson. Second-Lieutenant Howshall** achieved a notable further success in the individual championships and has been selected to represent B.A.O.R. in the U.K. Championships later this year. We wish him every success.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

First round knockout

HEADQUARTERS Squadron are in the news again, and our congratulations go to **Lance-Corporal Geoff Cutts** for winning the Army Welterweight Boxing Championships at Aldershot on 19th February. Much to the delight of the coach-load of spectators from Blandford, his devastating attack in the first minute of the first round won him the championship. We wish him the best of luck for the Combined Services Championships and the Amateur Boxing Association quarter-finals. **Lance-Corporal Cutts** is for the third time a candidate for the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh, representing his native Wales.

ARMY CHAMPION

Lance-Corporal Geoff Cutts winner of the Army Welterweight Boxing Championship. Now he goes on to the Combined Services and A.B.A. Championships. With him is his father (left) and Major Henry Scott, his Squadron Commander

We also congratulate **Corporal 'Mel' Bull** and **Lance-Corporal Alan Robinson** on being awarded their Army Colours for canoeing. **Corporal Bob Storey,** whom we recently tranferred to the School of Signals from this Regiment, has also won his Army Colours, and together with **Corporal Bull** made an excellent start to the season by winning the Oxford University Long Distance Canoe race on 1st March. This is a national event and we look forward to the Devizes-Westminster race with great interest.

Arrivals and departures

The comings and goings to various faraway places with strange sounding names has continued throughout February. **Corporals Ray Harris, Geoff Lockey, Gordon Leith** and **Signalmen Philip Samways** and **Jim Highton** are the replacement detachment in Anguilla; **Yeoman Keith Halliwell** joins them in March.

We are pleased to report that we have successfully retrieved **Signalman Jim Hartley** from Ethiopia, but this month's star prize in the overseas posting competition goes to **Major Chris Cross** for being selected for an attachment to the British Embassy in Rome prior to his course at the Italian Staff College. This is a sad loss but we welcome **Major Nick Williams** as the new O.C. 1 Squadron. Amongst the many overseas postings was **Signalman Lane** to 642 Signal Troop in Gibraltar. He joins **Corporal Dowling** and **Signalman Nulty** as the reinforcements from 30th Signal Regiment. The Troop is mostly engaged in S.W.S. work, providing line circuits for the R.A.F. **Foreman Morris, Sergeant Longstaff, Sergeant Terry Dodson** and **Sergeant Bruce Lutterlock** report that the rain in Spain falls mainly on Gibraltar, however, they also say that they have come through the worst of the winter rain without too many cable faults.

4th Guards Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (204) B.F.P.O. 17

An apology

WE have been 'out of print' for so long that our distant friends could have been forgiven for thinking we had ceased to function. Nothing could, in fact, be further from the truth. We do, however, apologise for our continued absence in recent months and make it our Lenten resolution that we will try to be more regular correspondents. It might be worth saying a few words about the Squadron for those readers who are not 'au fait' with us or this part of the world. Situated in the cathedral city of Munster we support 4th Guards Brigade, a singularly unique occupation of which we feel we can be justifiably proud since there is only one Guards Brigade. The Squadron is commanded by **Major H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E.,** with **Captain K. Ryding** as Second-in-Command. **Lieutenant M. J. Vest** commands Alpha Troop and **Second-Lieutenant R. A. Wannell** holds onto the reins of Bravo Troop. **Captain K. G. Turner** is our Communications Officer, but has been in the U.K. for some time now furthering his education! **R.S.M. B. G. Green** (currently attending the R.S.M.'s convention) looks after the discipline side of this most integrated Squadron. We have just completed our 'training/leave' months and we are now beginning the exercise season with a vengeance, albeit that the weather in Germany at the moment is more suitable for the filming of "Ice Station Zebra" rather than participation in Exercise 'Tallons High.'

We say farewell to our Commander

With the start of a new decade we said goodbye to the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. M. Gow,** on posting to the Imperial Defence College. We hope both he and his family will be very happy in their new post.

We now have with us our new Commander, **Brigadier Sir I. L. Jardine, Bt., O.B.E., M.C.** We don't anticipate being able to pull the wool over his eyes (would we ever try) since **Brigadier Jardine** is an ex-Brigade Major of this Brigade. We hope both he and his family will have a pleasant tour.

Sport

The weather has really upset a lot of our sporting plans this year, but although we can't get outside very often the indoor sports have gone well.

In particular, although we couldn't raise a full boxing team for the B.A.O.R. Minor Units Championships we were able to send **Sergeant Carim, R.E.M.E.,** back to Berlin for the B.A.O.R. Individual Boxing Championships. Last year he was most unfortunate in being beaten, but this only strengthened his resolve this year to win. He fought his way through to the final of the light-welter weight division, beating some strong opponents, but still the Radio Commentator didn't hold out much hope for his chances in the final. He stepped into the ring determined to prove all his critics wrong and after a very hard-fought final, and a nerve-racking couple of minutes whilst the referee totalled up the score, the announcement came. **Seregant Carim** had won.

(N.B.: I wonder what was in the telegram that **W.O.I (R.S.M.) B. B. Green, B.E.M.,** sent on the morning of the fight!)

Our football team has come under the management of **S.S.G.T. (Y. of S.) Jim Creevy,** but unlike the professionals of England, there was no great transfer fee involved. Unfortunately the only game that the team has played was a practice match so that the new manager could weigh up his team. Since then the pitches have been covered with a 'white blanket' and they haven't been able to play. Exercise commitments permitting, we look forward to seeing plenty of action and, dare we say it, success before the cricket season is with us.

A New Squadron Club

The Squadron Commander has agreed to the formation of a new Squadron Club and although very much in its infancy the project is very much alive and kicking. Bingo each Friday, table tennis every other Tuesday, a colour television, a club soccer team, dances and (we hope) films are all parts of a mixed bag which is hoped will allow our recreational activities to match our duty commitments.

7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (202), B.F.P.O. 37

PRIDE of place in our 'Wire' notes this month must go to our cross-country team who have excelled themselves this season. Firstly, thanks and congratulations to the ever-young Sergeant Henry Escott, who has so ably trained, if not driven, the team.

The Brigade meeting was the first official competition, which took place on 21st January at Hohne. The team did extremely well in coming second overall to the Green Howards, as well as taking the Minor Units Cup. These results were exactly repeated at the Divisional Meeting at Hildesheim on 31st January, and so the team went forward to the B.A.O.R. finals with great hopes. The week before the race was spent, for the first time in the season, on full-time training. The Green Howards very kindly looked after the team at Minden. The effort was well rewarded when the Minor Units Cup came into our hands, even with two of our best runners away. We won with a score of 416 points, about 300 points ahead of our nearest rivals. Having done so well, the P.R.I. minibus was overhauled and redone for the trip back to Aldershot for the Army finals on 20th February. This nearly ended in disaster, for all the work on the 'bus came undone when it stopped at the first set of traffic lights (about 100 yards away) and refused to go. However, all was well again, and the trip back to the U.K. went well, except for those who had forgotten to take sea sickness pills. **Corporal Perkins,** in particular, died a thousand deaths during the crossing. In the U.K., where the team lodged with 216 (Para) Signal Squadron, the opposition was far tougher, but we still managed to come third, out of eight minor units—an extremely good effort.

THEY MADE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES

Excelled themselves this season—the cross country team of 7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. and Signal Sqn. They were the B.A.O.R. cross country minor unit winners and they came third overall in the minor units Army championship

Back row, left to right: Signalman Siddle, Corporal Davies, Signalman Houchen, Private Sharp, Signalman Stockton, Lance-Corporal Iddon

Front row, left to right: Corporal Perkins, Lieutenant Spiers, Major Oehlers, Sergeant Escott (Captain), Corporal Smith

More Sporting Successes

I must hasten to add that this is not our only sporting success; our soccer team reached the B.A.O.R. semi-finals, and the hockey team reached the Divisional final. Other successes have been in badminton, where we are in the Divisional finals, and at top of our group, which contains 90 per cent major units. Having started so well, our basketball team had a rather disappointing end to the season, but were still good enough to finish second in the Brigade major units pool. Overall, an extremely successful season which, we hope, will continue into the summer.

For those who remember **Signalman 'Taffy' Finn, Sergeant Escott** tells us that whilst in Aldershot he saw him just prior to his first 'jump' with 216—a complete bag of nerves—then afterwards appeared adjusting his beret and looking 10ft. tall. Incidentally, he now looks quite clean and smart, too! Anyway, well done, 'Taff' for even getting through the course.

It never breaks down . . . it only stops!

Congratulations must go to **Captain Chris Urquhart,** not only on his promotion, but also for caring so much for his 'first-born.' He has just bought his first new car which, we are all assured, has 'a lovely spare wheel!' A good advert for the particular make a car he has bought is that "It never breaks down, it only stops!" Anyway, many happy hours of car-washing to you.

The AUSTRALIAN ARMY needs officers

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If you are a medical or dental practitioner whose qualifications are registerable in the Commonwealth of Australia, we invite you to apply for a short service commission in the R.A.A.M.C. or R.A.A.D.C. Your appointment would carry the minimum rank of Captain but it is restricted to male members of the professions, preferably under the age of 40 years.

If your application is successful, you will be commissioned in the U.K. and travel to Australia with your family. You will have good pay, excellent prospects of promotion and a generous pension or gratuity scheme. You and your family can take advantage of Australia's boundless opportunities and high standard of living in the world's best climate.

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

'Alpha' Troop—The 'Alpherites'

IT is well-known in Kingsley Barracks that 'Alpha' Troop is the cause of everyone's misfortune, as we all have to work with them. But if it were not for 'Alpha' Troop, the Brigade would not function at all—maybe more people would then be relaxed, happy and want the Troop back. What type of man can therefore be found in this Troop? He is, of course, an 'Alpherite': after the security of Catterick and before the insecurity of 'Civvy Street' we find the 'Alpherite.'

'Alpherites' are found anywhere, in bars (**Signalman Mike Turnbull**), on bars (**Lance-Corporal Wilkie**), behind bars (**Signalman 'Snoddy' Beard**), on radios, on leave, in trouble, in love (often).

'Alpherites' come in assorted shapes, sizes, weights, confusion, dress, undress (the 'trio,' **Roper, Ledger** and **Clegg**).

Staff Officers love or loathe them; Signal Officers worry about them; the Squadron office forgets them; the R.S.M. supports them; yet sometimes they all get on together.

An 'Alpherite' is lazy with a will to work (**Signalman Vic Millward**), efficient without a word (**Signalman 'Scouse' Smyth**), a millionaire without a DM (**Signalman Bob Oswald**), and showing bravery with a grin (**Signalman Paul Greenwood**).

An 'Alpherite' is a character, always tidy (**Signalman 'Rommel' Penman**), shy as a fox, the appetite of a horse (**Lance-Corporal Tubby Garnett**), carries a chip on his shoulder (**Signalman 'Geordie' Wilson**) and has an occasional ability to communicate.

His dislikes are straightforward, such as: Reading orders, wearing the correct uniform, getting up, taking anything to the F. of S. workshop, putting on his 'noddy suit.'

He likes being led astray by **Corporals Trevor Denton** and **Jim Doherty,** towards beer, women, Cambrai, cheap cigarettes, McEwans.

Nobody can get so much fun out of letters, civilian clothes, sex magazines or others' misfortunes (like **Signalman Pitt**).

Nobody can write so seldom, spell so badly, yet think so much (**Lieutenant McLean**).

Nobody can spend so much time in U.K. when he is posted to Minden (**Sergeant Farrelly**).

Nobody can miss so many duties for 'duty' in the Green Scarf (**Corporal 'Scouse' Chapman** and **Dave Collens**).

Nobody can complain so often or so loud (**Signalman 'Nelly' Knowles**).

Nobody can get more depressed when the soccer team loses (**Signalman 'Chilli' Chilcott**).

An 'Alpherite' is a strange mixture; you can laugh at him, cry because of him, curse him, sit up all night repairing sets for him, spend hours looking for his SCANT with him, but you can never ever ignore or forget him.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (212) B.F.P.O. 36

Arrivals and Departures

WE say farewell this month to our Squadron Commander, **Major John Stevens,** who leaves us to join the M.O.D., and welcome in his place, **Major Hugh Morrison,** who has just finished a tour in South West District at Taunton. We also welcome back our Second-in-Command, **Captain Tony Hunt,** who has at last got into top gear and returned from Ireland!

Exercises

The beginning of February saw 'A' Troop off to Soltau on their exercise 'Alpha Plus.' It was rather surprising, therefore, to find not only O.C. 'A' Troop, but also the Second-in-Command, Adjutant, O.C. 'B' Troop and the R.S.M. up at Soltau. Rumour has it, however, that everyone made themselves useful in one way or another, and the R.S.M. spent his idle moments getting O.C. 'B' Troop's Land Rover hopelessly bogged in molten snow.

At the end of February the Squadron deployed for another C.P.X., 'First Try.' This exercise coincided with the handover of Squadron Commanders and Brigade Majors and proved conclusively that the O.C. is able to communicate further than anyone else in spite of being limited to an 8ft. whip. The exercise went smoothly apart from one rebroadcast 432 commanded by **Corporal Malpass,** who, whilst looking for a high spot, forgot to look down, and fell off a cliff, eventually coming to rest against a tree. With the help of B.E.M.E. the vehicle was extracted without damage. The eight trees that got in the way were not quite so lucky.

Sport

Following their success in the 2nd Division stage of the minor units cross-country, the team went to the B.A.O.R. finals at Hameln knowing that at least the weather could not be worse than it had been in the previous race. Although the conditions proved easy, the course was not—with sheer downhill and a nine foot ditch to contend with. The team ran well to come second in the minor units.

WAITING FOR THE OFF

12 Brigade Signal Squadron cross country team at the B.A.O.R. finals. They gained a creditable second place

The Boxing team, led by **Corporal 'Jock' Asher,** went off to Celle at the beginning of February to compete against the 1st Division finalists, a combined team from 7/11 O.F.P. The fitness training they had been subjected to paid dividends and **Lance-Corporal Clark, Signalman Warrilow, Corporal Asher** and **Lance-Corporal Stevenson** all won their fights — **Lance-Corporal Stevenson** by a highly spectacular knockout after 30 seconds of the first round!

Following this success, the team travelled to Belgium at the beginning of March for the B.A.O.R. Finals of the Minor Units Boxing. The team put up a very good performance to finish as B.A.O.R. runners-up, **Corporal Asher** winning his fight and **Signalman Warrilow** and **Lance-Corporal Talbot** showing great fighting spirit.

If this is someone else's Wire you are reading—

Why not be big and buy your own copy!

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

LIFE has been as varied as ever during the last two months. Our D. & E. Platoon have been enjoying the sunshine of Kenya, while the remainder of the Squadron has struggled with the problems of U.E.E., pre-admin inspections and preparations for Exercise 'Bersatu Padu,' which will take place in Malaysia from April to July of this year.

Exercise 'Wildwood'

On 6th January, we left R.A.F. Fairford in a Hercules of R.A.F. Transport Command. A day-and-a-half later we arrived at R.A.F. Eastleigh, Kenya, East Africa, much to our relief.

Our hosts, the 2nd Royal Anglian Regiment, made us very welcome, and at once set about training us all in aspects of jungle warfare. They were very pleased to see that we were eager to learn and did not need much teaching.

The time spent in the jungle was hard, but enjoyable, and we learnt a lot, such as how to put up a 'basha,' tracking and ambush tactics and such like.

The last thing we had to do was to climb Mount Kenya, but I am glad to report that all personnel of the D. & E. Platoon made it. It was hard work, and required determination. The thing that got nearly everybody was not the cold, but the altitude.

Things didn't go smoothly for some of us, such as **Jock Chawner.** One night while reading a newspaper he happened to look down and saw a puff adder lying beside him. **Private Chawner** immediately gave up his bivouac! Luckily, O.C. 'B' Company was passing and shot it.

Alas, our stay in Kenya was too short, and on 5th February we were told to pack our kit and prepare to fly home.

Change of Command

LAST SALUTE

Major Jack Westlake is towed away to the camp gates on final departure from a Squadron which he will miss very much. *Left to right:* Sergeant Nimmons, Sergeant Wilson and Lieutenant Maddren

On 17th January **Major Jack Westlake** handed over command to **Major Peter Reader.** The Squadron was determined that the occasion would be marked by a suitable ceremony. The O.C. was marched to the Officers' Mess by **Captain John Heason,** our Adjutant, at 12.00 sharp, for a farewell drink. He left the Mess at 12.30, to be pulled to the camp gates by the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the Squadron. The Band of the 2nd Bn. Royal Anglian Regiment played suitable music and the route was lined by the remainder of the Squadron.

We wish Major Westlake all success in his new appointment as D.A.A. & Q.M.G. of 11 Brigade. We also extend a warm welcome to **Major Reader** and look forward to another two years of progress under his command.

Arrivals and Departures

We say goodbye to **Lance-Corporal Beecham, Lance-Corporal Jones, Driver Beresford** and say hello to **Sergeant Noble, Corporal Clark, Lance-Corporal Sharp, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Wall, Corporal Zammit.**

226 Signal Squadron (Radio) B.F.P.O. 32

Annual inspection and presentation, 26th February, 1970

IT was a pleasant day when **Major Gordon Young** (Squadron Commander) greeted the Inspecting Officer, **Colonel A. T. Scott, O.B.E.,** accompanied by **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd,** who arrived in place of **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** who was indisposed due to a ski-ing accident. (A speedy recovery is extended from all members of the Squadron).

During the day all of the departments were visited, and **Colonel Scott** took the opportunity to talk with a number of 'old soldiers' from one of his old Regiments (13th).

The inspection culminated with a parade commanded by **Captain Tony Field** (Adjutant) for the presentation of the

INSPECTION
Colonel A. T. Scott appears well pleased
Left to right: Colonel Scott, Major Young, Corporal Cossins, Private Thompson, Corporal Parsons, Corporal Williams, Signalman McSherry

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **S.S.M. Eric Hall** (who has been in, and out, of the Army more than anyone that I have known) and **Staff Sergeant Len Ellis,** R.E.M.E.

After presenting and congratulating both deserving recipients, **Colonel Scott** then complimented all personnel on their clean and smart turnout.

The parade was then dismissed to hear the glad tidings (for some) of the new pay rise.

The previous evening, the officers of the Squadron and their ladies entertained **Colonel Scott** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Hibberd** to dinner in the Station Officers' Mess, Celle. The new Commander, Celle Station, **Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. Lawrence, M.B.E.,** R.A.O.C., and **Mrs. Lawrence** were also invited to meet **Colonel Scott.**

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT)
B.F.P.O. 18

A memorable soccer match

TO be 'news-minded' and help keep THE WIRE interesting is a reasonable request from any editor, and one knows exactly what is meant — those articles on administration inspections, M.P.C. Courses and Sergeants versus Officers soccer matches, which make pretty uninteresting reading to most of us, and only in desperation would one contemplate including such an article in the monthly WIRE NOTES. However, not so much in desperation but more in admiration, A.F.C.E.N.T.'s Officers' versus Sergeants' soccer match last week is worth a mention, not because the Officers' goalie was handcuffed to the goal post by sports-loving Sergeants, or each attack by the Officers was met with such things as smoke screens layed by the Garrison R.S.M., but because of the example displayed to us by **Air Chief Marshal Sir Augustus Walker, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., A.D.C., M.A.** (**'Sir Gus'** to his friends).

Sir Augustus is 57 years old, lost his right arm during World War II and, who, in spite of the fact that he has been on a continual round of farewell parties prior to his posting, was without doubt the fittest man on the field, and not counting the goal he scored, put twenty-one other players to shame and gave quite a number of spectators something to think about. I am sure that around A.F.C.E.N.T. this month will be seen more pear-shaped people on diets than ever before.

FARAWAY PLACES ! — UNUSUAL JOBS ! *SEND US THAT STORY*

When under pressure, time flies

All Chief Clerks at one time or another come under pressure and 'our' **Sergeant Cole** is no exception. Given the task of supervising a young clerk in a typing test he gave the young man a test piece to type and said: "Keep typing until I come back," and being a good soldier he did just that—for three hours. We now have another BII in the Squadron and a red faced **Sergeant Cole.**

Pleased to meet you

You have read the WIRE NOTES of 227 Signal Squadron before, but do you know what the Squadron does—or where it is?

On the assumption that we are not at the centre of your attention, perhaps a brief description will bring us a little better into focus.

We serve Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (which is commanded by **General Jurgen Bennecke,** Germany Army) by providing the Royal Signals manpower for the Regional Signals Support Group and, of course, administering and helping in every way we can.

The M.C.C.

These initials are not only engraved on the hearts of every cricket lover, but also on the hearts of all who have served in 227. The largest single activity in the R.S.S.G., which we support, is the A.F.C.E.N.T. *M*obile Communications Centre (M.C.C.), in which over 80 Royal Signals personnel serve, including **Major Bill Morgan**—Chief of the M.C.C. (as well as O.C. 227 Signal Squadron), **Major Jullian Jackson**—Chief Technical Section and **Captain Rex Stephenson**—Executive Officer, M.C.C.

Of course only a proportion of the personnel in the M.C.C. is British; the German, American, Canadian and Dutch forces are present too, bringing the total to approximately 200. Because of this integration you will find signalmen commanded by HauptGefreiters and Sergeants commanding S.P.4s and soldaats. The M.C.C. must be one of the most integrated organisations known to man — and it works well.

BRITISH AND GERMAN ARMIES GET TOGETHER
Corporal Wally Cook (R.E.M.E.) and HauptGefreiter Josef Schmidt, German Army, carrying out field maintenance on one of the M.C.C. trucks

Social life

Being in an internationally integrated headquarters certainly makes the social life hectic, as I write we are just bracing ourselves for the Maastricht carnival, involving the whole community. However, it doesn't end there, as soon as the Dutch festivity is over, there will be an American cause for celebration, and then perhaps, German, and so it goes on. Our existence consists of bouncing from exercise to social event to exercise.

(*Continued on page* 168)

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Military Radio for example.

M.E.L. specialise in the production of Military telecommunications equipment, their principal contribution lying in the H.F. range with special emphasis on mobile and transportable tactical equipment.

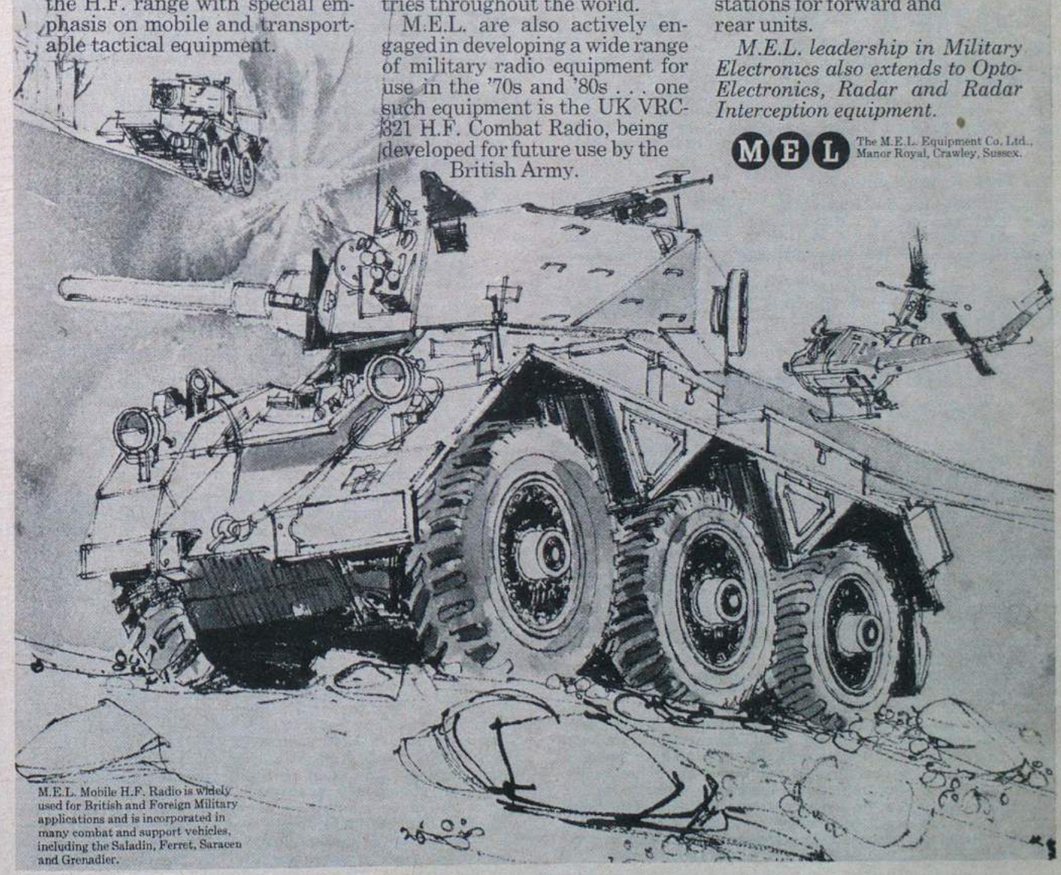
Currently produced sets such as the C11, C11(SSB), and radio telegraph adaptor equipment are in constant use in many countries throughout the world.

M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

This equipment is designed specifically for tactical roles, in combat and signals vehicles, and for transportable command stations for forward and rear units.

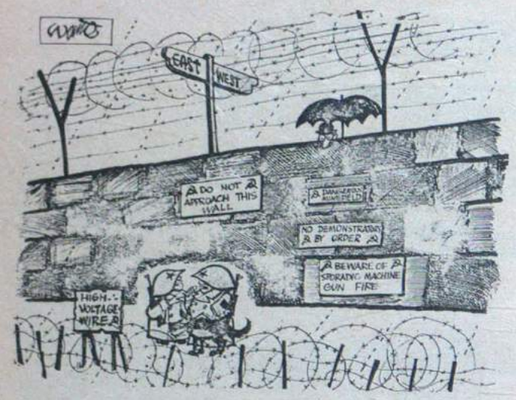
M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Opto-Electronics, Radar and Radar Interception equipment.

M E L The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.



M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

(Continued from page 166)



[Courtesy of the London Daily Mirror

"He's talent scout from the MCC"

There you have it then, the Fighting Two Hundred and Twenty-seventh as our transatlantic brothers call us. When your posting order says 227, breath a sigh of relief and come and join us — you will enjoy it.

The cartoon included with the article is provided as an example of the language problem we have.

An allied soldier serving in 'our' Mobile Communications Centre (M.C.C.), and (shame on him) never having heard of the Middlesex Cricket Club, was heard to say on seeing the cartoon: "Would the British Army really recruit from the East."

Arrivals and departures

We welcome the following to the Squadron and hope thay enjoy their stay with us: **W.O.I Heaps, Sergeant Hornblower, Corporal Latham, Corporal McDonald, Corporal Stephenson, Lance-Corporal Gerrard, Signalman Molyneux** and **Signalman Trollope.**

Our best wishes go with the following on posting from the Squadron: **Lance-Corporal Sheridan, Signa'man Morgan** and **Signalman Thirkettle.**

240 Signal Squadron, (Northern Command) York

A LOT of water has flowed down the Ouse, under the York bridges, since notes from this Squadron last appeared in THE WIRE, but a gentle, if somewhat firm, hint in the 'what about it?' vein from higher authority, has produced the following contribution.

Smaller, but the job is much the same

For the benefit of past members, the Squadron is still located in Imphal Barracks, or perhaps better known to many as the old Infantry Barracks. Then why Imphal? Because this used to be the Depot of the West Yorkshire Regiment; the barracks being named after the battle of that name in which the West Yorks played a gallant part.

The Squadron now occupies a very small area in the barracks, which is a far cry from the days of Regimental status and a strength in the order of 500 strong.

Even as a Squadron, the strength has diminished principally due to a reorganisation of the administrative structure, and where, overall, the civilian far outweighs the military strength. Nonetheless, the charter remains the same, which has hardly altered since the Squadron was a Regiment, whereby we are responsible for the static communications of Northern Command (and a few odd jobs besides!), and with a sizeable area to cover. Although we cannot look forward to 'exciting events,' like field exercises, we do have our recurring crises!

Two masters

With the formation of 2 Group, we also find ourselves with two masters—Commander, 2 Group and C.S.O., Northern Command—but we cope.

The Command of the Squadron is now vested in **Major Mike Sinc'air,** who has just taken over from **Major Jimmy Fyfe,** who is going to command a Squadron of 10th Signal Regiment in Salisbury. We wish him and his wife and family a very pleasant stay in their new station.

Our Chief Duty Signal Officer is **Captain Peter Byers,** and our Signals Works Services Chief is **Major Jack Foster,** who is based with his Troop in a place some of our readers will have heard of—Catterick Camp! Last, but not least, our administration is in the very capable hands of **Major (Retd.) George Bolam,** known to many in the Corps and still going strong. We have a large and loyal civilian 'army,' 168 strong, who man telephones and teleprinters as far north as the Scottish border and as far south as Leicester. (Note put in over my shoulder from O.C., who is kibitzing these writings—"The Arctic still begins at Finsbury Park.")

We are also proud to do our bit towards the furtherance of NATO communications, as we are responsible for generally administering some 25 soldiers at our two Ace High Stations at Stenigot and Brizlee Wood. The latter is situated not far from some excellent sandy beaches, and the O.C. promises to give them a full share of visits during what we hope will be a good summer.

Good relations with local Association Branch

Lastly, these notes would not be complete without a mention of the excellent relations that exist between the serving Corps in the Squadron and our ex-Corps Comrades of the Royal Signals Association branch in York. The branch is fortunate in having its own club premises, and the Squadron and branch members combine to make this a really going concern. With, as the main motif, the 50th anniversary of the Corps, the branch recently held an extremely good dinner and dance, to which members of the Association H.Q. were invited—they having put on their snow shoes and anoraks and journeyed from London to attend.

Any of you old Royal Signallers living in the York area who are not members—come and join!

So much for our first effort; more to follow in future issues, so watch this space.

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron c/o G.P.O. Singapore

WHO are we? The remnants of 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron after it was disbanded/disintegrated on 31st January.

First let us catch up on the activities and personalities of our late integrated Squadron. It is impossible to mention everything, as we were kept busy on exercises right up to the date when the Brigade H.Q. ceased to have operational control.

Exercise 'Square Hole' (water filled)

Those who think Malaya has an ideal climate should have been on the 3 Commando exercise, 'Square Hole,' where the worst monsoon for 20 years hit us. In fact it wasn't the continuous rain which washed everything away, from the Singapore railway line to the roads, which upset us, it was the weevils in our ration pack rice! Good protein, the pundits said, but when you open a 24-hour pack and the whole bag of rice is black and moving, you need more courage than the standard Gurkha rum tot produces to enjoy your meal.

Dashera (first class)

Dashera this year will long be remembered as not only the Brigade's last, but the most modern and permissive entertainment yet seen. The Sergeants' Mess party saw Officers and Sergeants in mess kit watching Gurkha dancing, the Gurkha Signals' pipes and drums, an energetic acrobatic display by our Squadron P.T. team and a stripper who revealed all. (Although photographs were taken, it is felt that THE WIRE is not yet to be tempted to publish a nude with the entire Brigade Staff watching, goggle-eyed, so we have kept them in a special cover in the Squadron History, which may be viewed by special appointment with the Squadron Second-in-Command). It was said afterwards that the R.S.M. found himself visiting the Brigadier, but it hasn't stopped his promotion. Congratulations, Lieutenant Saheb!

The Squadron Kalaratri party produced a feast of food, drink and entertainment, of which mention must be made of the 'skit' on the mobile heart transplant! The heart of a live chicken was quickly extracted by a kukri and inserted in the patient, who came back from the dead and crowed!

Parties (numerous)

Many farewell parties were given as units, messes and individuals disbanded and left 99 Brigade. 14 Flight, Army Air Corps, marked their disbandment with their 21st birthday and gave a first-class barbecue. With all the Flight funds to dispose of, they filled the guests up with drink and then made certain we would go home by cooling us down externally—in the swimming pool.

Congratulations (worthy)

To the Squadron .22 shooting team for winning the Singapore Minor Units League Cup. To **Sergeant Nigel Zorab** on his marriage to **Sergeant Hazel Ruth Davies** (W.R.A.C.) To **Lieutenant Graham Gordon** on his engagement. To **R.S.M. 'Ginger' Cockroft** on his promotion to Lieutenant and posting to 48 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. To **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Hombahadur Gurung** on his promotion to Captain.

Farewells (regretfully)

On disbandment we have lost many friends, and it is impossible to mention all, but may we wish all those who have served with us, goodbye and good luck for the future, particularly 14 Flight Army Air Corps, the Brigade Provost Unit, the L.A.D., and all the staff, clerks, drivers and D. & E. Platoon of Brigade H.Q.

Our particular thanks and good wishes go to **Captain Pat Laverack,** 17th/21st Lancers, our Admin. Officer; **Captain David Paterson,** R.A., our Q.M.; **Colour-Sergeant Don Howick,** S.G., 'Q' Stores; **Sergeant John Elvin,** R.A.P.C., our Pay Sergeant; and **Corporal Pete Russell,** R.R. Tech.

To our Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. E. Hee'is, O.B.E.,** we wish good luck in retirement.

We send our condolences to **Mrs. Jill Watts** on the very sad news of the death of her husband, **Major John Watts,** RTR, the Brigade G3(Int.), who was killed in a traffic accident in U.K., whilst on disembarkation leave.

The Future (hopefully)

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron is now providing a large element of tradesmen for 249 Signal Squadron, and our task is to administer these men, provide commcens at Brunei and Nee Soon, rear link communications for 1/2 G.R., and act as advance party to 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment, who move here during the summer.

242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh

Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E. presenting the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. J. G. Heath. The medal bearer in the background is Private Helen Irons.

ON 16th March, **Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E.,** the Commander, 2 Signal Group, visited us for the first time. After inspecting the quarter guard he presented **Mr. J. G. Heath** with the Imperial Service Medal. **Mr. Heath** joined the Army Department on 28th March, 1933, where he gave long and loyal service until he retired, on 31st October, 1969. The service of 36 years included war service, from 1939 to 1945.

Mr. Heath now lives with his wife and three children in Edinburgh.

FORMAL OCCASION

Commander 2 Signal Group inspecting the Quarter Guard. Guard Commander Sergeant Henderson. The rear rank from left to right is Signalman Baptie, Lance-Corporal Carse, Corporal Stowell, Corporal Whitfield

HOW DID I GET HERE — BUCHAN TAIL?

You are going to Italy, said the T.O.T. "Oh," says I, "what for?" "To learn about the Ace High System, Tropo-Scatter, etc." Putting on my bright intelligent expression, I intimated that I had heard of it, whatever it was.

So off I went for five months to sunny Italy; it rained for the first two months, never got really warm during the next three and was a thorough disappointment.

Having learned all that the SHAPE Centralised Training facility could teach me on Ace High and Tropo-Scatter principles, I returned to 'Blighty' for a spot of leave before posting to the Aberdeen Tail Station. Surprise! Surprise! A letter from the Station Supervisor, a R.A.F. Sergeant, to tell me that I was to take over his positon.

Leave finished, I drove north to my new posting, calling in at 242 Signal Squadron on the way.

The Aberdeen Tail is, surprisingly, 35 miles from Aberdeen, on the most easterly tip of Scotland. Here we are billeted at R.A.F. Buchan, who treat us very well.

Life is very quiet, the work interesting, but not too exacting, though hectic moments are sometimes experienced when carrying out the routine maintenance.

Corporals Ian Carter, Dave Fisher, John Pearson (just expecting 'his third') and **Terry Beard** work on a 'four-way' shift system here.

Corporal Beard plays in goal for the R.A.F. Buchan football team. For the others, there are few recreational activities, as they profess no interest in golf—I am sure this should be Scotland's national game—nor in fishing.

Winter here is proving rather hard, with, so I am told, very little summer to compensate for it. It seems that, even on the most sunny day, there is always a good breeze to cool it down. Perhaps I should take up kite flying.

How I envy our Ace High Friends in Malta and Cyprus.

However, the weather apart, we are happy here, doing an important job, to the best of our ability.

ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN'S LAMENT

Mormond Brae ye're ill to climb,
Wi snaw and ice up tae yer chin,
Mormond's soup, it's hellish thin,
Wi hungry Sergeants mucking in.
They smoke yer fags and pass the buck,
Pinch yer leave and say its luck,
Blame ye aye if things gae wrang,
An mak ye wark the hale night lang,
Mormond pay ye're ill tae win
I wish tae God my time was in.

There are not many soldiers who regularly drive into low cloud on their way to work as do the NATO Forward Scatter Site, Mormond Hill, Aberdeenshire.

This remote site, which is manned by Royal Signals personnel was 'inherited' from the R.A.F. in the Corps latest game of 'musical chairs,' or is it 'pass the parcel.'

The station, which is part of the Ace High Forward Scatter Chain, controlled by SHAPE, has a staff of thirteen, all of whom are fast getting used to being referred to as the 'Brown Jobs' by our less fortunate R.A.F. (Junior Service) neighbours at R.A.F. Buchan.

Most of us have less than a year's service on the hill, but we already have our experts, our two drivers, **Lance-Corporal Mawhinney** and **Signalman Noseley,** who are now experts at sideways driving on snow or ice and specialists at snow ploughing. **Lance-Corporal Mawhinney** states he doesn't mind the hail, but he is not too keen on leaning out to balance the Land Rover in a Force 8 gale.

F. of S. Norton is very good at ski-ing in his size 10 DMS, but will sit down on the job.

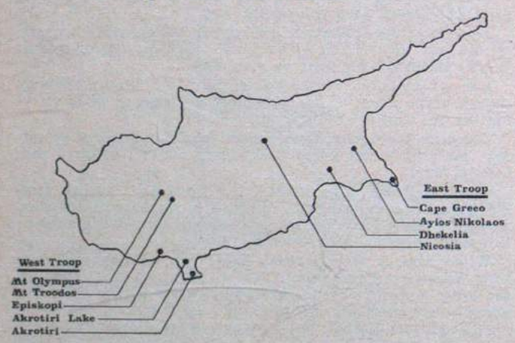
Corporal Hall has invented a different way of clearing boulders on the road—he hits them with his head—and it's rumoured he doesn't feel it.

Sergeant Leitch and **Sergeant Hill** will give all who wish, lessons in climbing a helicopter ladder in Force 8 gales, and a certain chief technician never lets us forget he was there as well. They do not mention any indispositions on the journey, but it is rumoured that the heat exchanger room had more clothing drying in it on the day in question than is normally the case when they are driven up by **Signalman Noseley.** When our heroes returned to camp with running noses, bleary eyes and two days' growth of beard, they were greeted by their comrades: "Mormond Hill, I presume."

There are, however, breaks in the weather, when the sun shines and a good view can be enjoyed, when the peace is only broken by the mating calls of the seagulls and, after all, if you cannot take a joke you shouldn't have joined.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

Cyprus Detachment Locations



THE featured detachment this month is East Troop H.Q. and consists of the radio relay detachments at Nicosia, Ayios Nikolaos, Cape Greco and Dhekelia. Troop H.Q. is at Dhekelia, alongside the radio relay detachment; the strength of the H.Q. varies, largely depending on where the O.C., **Second-Lieutenant A. R. Lee,** happens to be at the time. Between courses in the U.K. and Malta, wintering at the Troodos Detachment as O.C. Royal Signals, Troodos, and various sporting activities, **Mr. Lee** has occasionally been seen at Dhekelia. In his absence, **Staff Sergeant P. Barnett** deputises as O.C. Troop—golf permitting.

The sole technical representative in the Troop H.Q. is **Staff Sergeant G. Brindle,** the Troop F. of S., who is responsible

ENTHUSIAST

Staff-Sergeant Brindle prepares to take off. A gliding enthusiast, he is the Assistant Chief Flying Instructor of the Crusaders Gliding Club . . . but his attempts to get various other members of the Squadron up in his 'engineless brute' have so far failed. "But keep trying George" say the Squadron

for the overall technical supervision of the radio relay detachments. A gliding enthusiast, **F. of S. Brindle,** is the Assistant Chief Flying Instructor of the Crusaders Gliding Club. His attempts to get various other members of the Squadron up in his engineless brute have so far failed, but keep trying, George.

The other half of the Troop is **Corporal Jack** and **Lance-Corporal Grieve.** The former is the Troop M.T. N.C.O., who, in his spare time runs a thriving chicken farm. **Lance-Corporal Grieve** is Second-in-Command to just about everything in the Troop, M.T., Troop Office and chicken farm. He comes into his own, however, as captain of the Dhekelia Signals 'B' basketball team.

Sport

This is still the busy season for sport, and we have had our share of activity. **Sergeant Lowry** has represented the Army (Cyprus) at rugby versus a visiting R.N. team and the R.A.F. (Cyprus) teams, both resulting in victories for the Army. **Staff Sergeant Barnett,** our resident golf expert, has represented the Army (Cyprus) against R.A.F. (Cyprus), and the Combined Services (Cyprus) against a Persian Gulf team.

The Royal Signals (Cyprus) Inter-Squadron Six-a-Side Hockey and Rugby Sevens Competitions were held recently at 9th Signal Regiment. The Squadron won the hockey competition, beating 262 Squadron 2—1 in a hard-fought final; at rugby, we lost in the final to 2 Squadron, 9th Regiment.

Schoolchildren's visits

Recently a party of sixth form pupils from St. John's School, Episkopi, visited the Episkopi Element of the Squadron. This was part of a joint presentation by 259, 261 and 262 Squadrons. The pupils were welcomed by the O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson,** who explained the role of the Squadron. They were then subjected to a lightning lecture by **W.O.II (F. of S.) D. E. G. Lanyon,** after which they were fully 'au fait' with the principles of modulation, A.M. and F.M., microwave techniques and radio relay systems! After this they were conducted round radio relay engineering control, where **W.O.I (F. of S.) E. M. Short** explained the intricacies of engineering a radio relay system, and the Episkopi terminal where **Sergeants Joglekar** and **Hetherington** expounded on the delights of the HM 314/315 radios. Whilst none of the party could be persuaded to sign on, the presence of 16-year-old school girls about the Squadron was voted to be a good thing. Further visits of this sort to the Squadron are anticipated with pleasure!

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio shown in manpack role.

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

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The B.20 HF SSB Station Radio, which has an RF output of 30W p.e.p., represents an entirely new design concept. The transmitter-receiver weighs only 10 lb (4.5 kg), and a lightweight station including a 24W/h battery weighs only 15 lb (6.8 kg). The B.20 uses a fully synthesized frequency control system developed by Plessey specially for this equipment, and which provides 280,000 channels on the frequency range 2–29.99 MHz. SSB is the main mode of communication, but a.m. and c.w. facilities are also provided.

The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

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261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53

TO all members of 261, past and future, apologies for our long absence in print from the pages of THE WIRE. It is the writer's experience over the years that nothing is more conducive to furtive backward glances and hiding in corners than the mention of 'this month's WIRE notes'! Whereas I can promise no literary masterpiece, I will at least endeavour to bring you up to date on some of the more noteworthy happenings of the last month or so.

Sport

I shall not attempt a blow-by-blow description of our accomplishments or otherwise in this field. We have just recovered from the Royal Signals (Cyprus) six-a-side hockey and seven-a-side rugby. We came third out of six in both events, a very creditable performance by both teams, especially **Sergeant Eric Williams** and the rugby team, who had never played as a team until the day. One unfortunate virtually stepped straight off the plane on to the rugby field.

Football in the Squadron may seem rather confused to the outsider. Airfield Troop at R.A.F Akrotiri play in one league, and S.H.Q. and Station Troop, at R.A.F. Episkopi, play in another. The standard fluctuates with the beer sales in the J.R.C., but at the time of writing, the Episkopi team are on the upward swing, thanks to such stalwarts as **Corporal Morris, Lance-Corporal Large** and **Signalman Catling,** not forgetting **Signalman Ernie Hooper,** who provides both team and spectators with a dazzling display of his own inimitable brand of soccer.

The Squadron basketball team is also doing well, again under the guidance of **Sergeant Eric Williams.** We all eagerly await the return of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Derek Prime** from his ski course on Troodos; no doubt we shall be able to give you more details of his experiences in the snow at some future date.

P.S.—At the time of despatch, we learn that **Foreman Prime** languishes in the R.A.F. Hospital with a broken ankle!

Work

Distasteful work at the best of times, but we must all earn our military salary. For those of you not familiar with the geography of the Squadron, I shall give you a brief run-down. S.H.Q. and Station Troop reside at R.A.F. Episkopi. The majority of the Squadron are based at R.A.F. Akrotiri in the Airfield Troop, commanded by **Captain Gatward,** ably assisted by **Staff Sergeant Tony Bermingham.** Here, Project Troop is also deployed, since most of their SWS tasks are inevitably at Akrotiri. **Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Milton** has just taken over from **Captain (T.O.T.) J. B. Jupe,** so perhaps we will see fewer members of the Squadron nursing damaged limbs as a result of the inevitable Jupe salesmanship in persuading all and sundry that ski-ing and parachuting are as easy as falling off a log. (If you must fall off a log, don't forget to hold a proper parachuting position—you'll come to no harm then). Airfield Troop, RAF Nicosia, commanded by **Sergeant Terry Stacey,** is next on the list. We also have small detachments with 280 Signal Unit at Cape Gata and RAF Troodos. We also provided a further Airfied Troop at R.A.F. El Adem, but those of you who read your newspapers will know that this station is very shortly due to join the ranks of those postings talked about wistfully in the bars of messes and clubs. It's strange how, when serving in some of the more remote stations, one does nothing but curse the sand or the heat, the mosquitoes, the rain, etc., but once they are vacated, never to be re-visited, they seem to acquire a nostalgic quality out of all proportion to their true worth.

The main work of the Squadron is, quite naturally, centred on Akrotiri. This station must now surely be one of the busiest R.A.F. bases in the world. At the time of writing, operating from Akrotiri are Vulcans, Phantoms, Harriers, Lightnings, Canberras, not to mention the transient Britannias, Hercules, VC-10s and the resident Argosies. All these aircraft, of course, mean work, and yet more work for the linemen and technicians of the Airfield Troop. If there are any linemen who feel they are not fully extended in their present jobs, they could always volunteer for 261 Signal Squadron, we can promise you plenty of variety and plenty of good, hard graft.

R.A.F. Episkopi has just finished an IS exercise which involved two days of rather hectic to-ing and fro-ing. The exercise culminated in an overwhelming attack on the 261 Squadron compound. The next morning saw a scene of carnage and desolation—the compound littered with cartridge cases and shredded thunderflashes. The sum total of damage appeared to have been the hub caps of the Squadron Commander's staff car, blown off by a near miss. Of course it was pure chance that we lost 75 per cent of our officer strength just before the battle. **Captains Barnaby, Lettin** and **Hutley** were sitting in the NEARELF Officers' Mess after lunch, no doubt discussing the deployment of their troops when a grenade (disguised as a beer tin) rolled in. Never have I seen such 'happy dead men' as they collected their equipment and disappeared.

Well, that seems to be all for the moment, the fountain has run dry. However, I shall attempt to put us in print a little more often in future.

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

Showing the Corps flag

ON Friday, 13th February, 3rd Signal Group were hosts to twenty-three sixth form pupils of St. John's School, Episkopi, with the aim of demonstrating the role of Royal Signals in the modern army. After the pupils had seen the static specialist installations of 259 and 261 Squadrons, we set out to show simpler and more flexible battlefield communication systems. Following the theme of Royal Signals provision of communications from unit level to field formation H.Q.'s, members of Radio Troop illustrated the flexibility and interoperability of the current range of radio equipment by setting up both HF and VHF nets using a number of different vehicle-borne and manpack sets. The masters and pupils took a lively interest in the working sets, and were soon operating from the two Commander's Rover vehicles, and trying on manpack sets for size and weight.

Not to be outdone, the technicians and radio relaymen of Technical Troop set up working demonstrations of Royal Signals point-to-point trunk communications used for interconnecting field formation H.Q.s. The C41/R222 and B70 sets together with associated carrier equipments provoked some interesting questions concerning their use in a battlefield environment. To complete the trunk communications picture, two W.R.A.C. comcen operator N.C.O.s from the Squadron's Communication Centre in Dhekelia demonstrated teleprinter tape preparation and transmission.

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AROUSED
Corporal George Coles had an attentive audience at his manpack radio stand

The final stand carried a working amateur radio station flanked by an impressive display of action photographs of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team. Among the many amateur radio enthusiasts contacted during the demonstration was **Captain Ray Webb,** Royal Signals, a member of the Corps Amateur Radio Society, who is currently serving in Sharjah.

'Tourists' here again

With a splendid climate and very good training areas, Cyprus provides an irresistible attraction for U.K.-based units whose aim is to combine some useful training with a change of air and scene. During February we were pleased to welcome elements of two Royal Signals units to the Dhekelia training accommodation — an airportable medium radio detachment from 14th Regiment (who alarmed the S.B.A. police with an impressive and unexpected display of antennas and lights), and a larger party from 5 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron who promptly went "walkabout" in the Akamas training area, 80 miles away at the western tip of the island. However, we kept in touch with a C11/R210 to A13 link working successfully straight over the 6,000 feet high Troodos mountain range, thus adding to our knowledge of communication feasibility on the island.

The sporting life

On 11th February, a team of hopefuls from the Squadron competed over a testing figure of eight course in the Cyprus Army Minor Unit Cross Country Championships, with the start and finish being placed at the crossover point of the eight! Despite hard running, the team could not achieve a better placing than fourth, but **Corporal Michael Stocks** was individual winner by a comfortable margin. A few days later he ran in the Army Cyprus 'A' team in the annual match against the R.A.F., but although he was again the first Army runner to finish, he was beaten into third place by two R.A.F. runners, and the R.A.F. went on to win the match.

In company with the other two independent Squadrons in Cyprus, we are sometimes inclined to bemoan the handicap of being few in number and widely dispersed. However, when it comes to competing in purely Royal Signals competitions, such excuses won't wash. When the Corps foregathered at 9th Regiment on 25th February to contest the inter-squadron 6-a-side hockey and 7-a-side rugby, we were determined to put aside excuses—mainly because we intended to win! Unfortunately, our rugby seven was not on form(!), but the unkindest cut was losing the hockey final to 259 Squadron by the narrowest of margins—so near and yet so far.

Is this a record? asks

665 Signal Troop, Gibraltar

Signalman 'Taffy' Owen, on behalf of the Troop, writes:

Formed December, 1968.
Disbanded March, 1970.

Can any Troop top that. We are/were the resident Signal Troop in Gibraltar.

Before our disbandment is carried out, we feel we must claim a little space in THE WIRE.

During 'our reign' we have assisted in training, almost up to Corps standards, Regimental Signallers of three Infantry Battalions, namely Royal Irish Rangers, Royal Ulster Rifles, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The Troop Sergeant, **Sergeant John Harrison,** has the fortune (misfortune?) to remain here as radio sergeant. **Corporal Bill MacIntyre,** one of our brilliant telephone exchange operators, having supported most honourably all of the local bars, feels that after two year here, he must return to B.A.O.R. to carry on after his previous five-year tour.

Our budding sportsman of the Troop, **Lance-Corporal Dickie Daniels,** returns to England (fixed!) to finish his time at the School of Signals.

We wish to pass on our regards to **Signalman (ZB2A) Mervyn Foster,** who, upon completion of his BI, joins 207 Signal Squadron in B.A.O.R.

Signalman 'Geordie' ('Skinhead') Carver can claim credit for the construction of a very well-designed rest room next to our radio room in Fortress H.Q.; even M.P.B.W. approved. He follows **Bill MacIntyre** to 4th Division, B.A.O.R.

I go to 30th Regiment to await a fate unknown after concluding a tour in the Naval comcen.

We part, then, after only 16 months as a Troop, in various frames of mind, upon leaving this place of varied employment.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

Recruiting campaign

LIFE in the Volunteers progresses very much in stages, and at this time of the year, the annual recruiting campaign, lasting a fortnight, is very much much with us. Bales of 'hand-outs' and hanging cards for shop windows have been distributed, street by street, by the Permanent Staff. **Signalman John Forster**—civil servant by day, soldier in the evening—has leapt in and out of helicopters and Land Rovers, his martial ability being recorded by Tyne/Tees Television and the local press for a series of advertisements. Teleprinters in the market place, the band playing to Saturday afternoon shoppers—the sales campaign is high pressure. This particular fortnight was marred by heavy snowfalls and freezing fog. Volunteer life can be very difficult!

One reason for joining . . .

Our photograph shows **June Smith,** one of our W.R.A.C. volunteers, on her wedding day. Her husband is **Lance-Corporal Stephen Hamilton,** also a member of the Regiment, and they met at 50 Squadron in Darlington. A guard of honour of eight volunteers turned up to present them with a 'Jimmy' horseshoe and, just to make the day memorable, June's younger sister also got married; our best wishes to all of them.

T.A.V.R. SERVICE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER
Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Hamilton with their Volunteer Guard of Honour. On their left is Mrs. Hamilton's sister who was married on the same day

. . . and another

Congratulations, too, to **Signalman D. Piper,** who came sixth in the recent Northern Command Cross-Country Championships out of a field of 75 runners. He now goes forward to the Army Championships, to be held shortly.

(*Continued on page* 175)

If you know just where to go, you can get a new Rover cheaper than a used one

Go to any Rover dealer. And should you have posting orders from the U.K. to overseas, or from one overseas country to another, he will tell you that you qualify for special concessions.

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And the cage is surrounded by 22 more very real safety features.

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ROVER

(*Continued from page* 173)

Ladies' Night

Some 70 officers and their ladies attended the annual ladies' night dinner at Brambles Farm. The opportunity was taken to dine-out **Captain Bill Ellington,** the L.A.D. commander, who was leaving to take command of 124 Recovery Campaign (V). We congratulate him on his promotion and wish him the best of luck. At the same time, a warm welcome to **Captain Jim Storey,** who has arrived to take command of the L.A.D.

Officer training

Over the same weekend, the Regimental Officers attended a study period at Bradford Armoury, Darlington. Special mention must be made of the W.R.A.C. subaltern's presentation to the problem set to them. It took the form of a playlet and, although this undoubtedly contained the correct answers to the questions set, the entertainment value was immense. It is understood that it is to be set to music and presented as a pantomime at Christmas.

East Midlands Universities O.T.C. (TAVR) Nottingham

(Serving Nottingham, Leicester and Loughborough Universities)

By Captain John B. France, Royal Signals (T.A.V.R.)

I FEEL it is time that the Officers' Training Corps appeared in print, if only to put on record the fact that of the 16 O.T.C. University Contingents (T.A.V.R.) throughout the United Kingdom, no less than twelve have Royal Signals sub-units, some with a Royal Signals P.S.I. In addition to this, the Corps also fills W.O.I (R.S.M.) appointments at some of the O.T.C.s, and occasionally provides an officer as Training Major to a contingent.

The role of an O.T.C. is to give pre-Service training to undergraduates seeking commissions in the Regular Army, the T. & A.V.R. or the C.C.F. All Cadets take Certificate 'B' Part I, and in the case of Royal Signals, they go on to take Part II (special to Arm) course and examination at the School of Signals, Blandford.

Annual training camps of 15 days are held in the long vacation, and more emphasis is to be given in the future to attachments to the Regular Army, either as units or by sub-units. This O.T.C. has had a very profitable attachment to 24th Infantry Brigade last summer—the Signals sub-unit training with 24th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron; the Infantry sub-unit with 3 L.I., and the R.E.M.E. sub-unit with 15th Infantry Workshops. This close contact with the Regular Army stimulates the interest of the Cadets and may be a deciding factor when they are thinking of a career in their final year at University.

This contingent has, since 1964, produced for our Corps three regular officers and nine T.A.V.R. officers. If you would like more detailed information about the O.T.C., you can find it in the British Army Review No. 31, April, 1969.

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.

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GARRARD

The Crown Jewellers

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This is Ron Cathcart. 33. Married with five children and, until recently, a telecommunications instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Feeling the need for the more settled domestic life that 'civvy street' offered, Ron left the RCS after many enjoyable years and, eight months ago joined Michelin Tyre Company on an 'open' basis, after passing through the Company's selection procedure; Ron's qualities were assessed and he was helped to choose a suitable career. He is at present undergoing training for a post as a production supervisor at the Stoke factory.

This is what Ron Cathcart says about his new career.

"The first thing that struck me about Michelin was the friendly atmosphere, and a real team spirit which I did not expect to find in industry. Responsibility is given as soon as you are ready for it and, although friendly advice is always available, you are given a job and left to get on with it.

I found the transition to civvy life helped greatly by the very thorough training programme which allows you to set your own pace, within reason.

Fringe benefits such as the canteen services and the sports and social amenities are of a high standard and Michelin adopts an understanding attitude to any personal difficulties – as I found to my advantage.

The opportunities for promotion are good and I see my career with Michelin as an exciting challenge."

Ron Cathcart is doing well and has found himself a career at Michelin and not just a job.

Michelin want more like him . . . – men with an ambition to carve out a new, progressive management career in production, engineering, work study or personnel.

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Visit of the Lord Mayor of London

The Lord Mayor inspects a guard of honour outside the Regiment's Headquarters in Worship Street EC. The guard commander is Lieutenant R. Hedgecoe. Behind the Lord Mayor are the Commanding Officer and the Mayor of Hackney

SIR Ian Bowater, D.S.O., T.D., the Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs, paid his annual visit to 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V) on 13th February. He inspected a guard of honour before meeting the Officers and visiting the Other Ranks' Club and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Lord Mayor and several other guests were then entertained to dinner in the Officers' Mess. The Hon. Colonel, **Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C.,** together with the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Walker,** welcomed the guests who included: The Mayor of Hackney, **Councillor L. H. House;** the Mayor of Royal Tunbridge Wells, **Councillor Miss P. E. F. Thesinger, T.D.;** the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.;** the G.O.C.-in-C. Southern Command, **General Sir Michael Carver, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C.;** the Director, W.R.A.C., **Brigadier The Hon. Dame Mary Anderson, D.B.E., A.D.C.;** the Master of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, **The Lord Alport;** the President, South East T.A.V.R. Association, **Colonel Sir William Mullens, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.;** the Secretary, Greater London T.A.V.R. Association, **Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, C.B.E., D.L.**

40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) Belfast

PHASE III of the 'Hall' plan has been put into action. The unsuspecting inhabitants of Co. Antrim, in particular those around the town of Ballymoney, where we have just acquired a new centre, are about to be recruited into the Ulster Signal Regiment. Plan 'B' of Phase III is the most fiendishly cunning part, not for 40th, just a recruiting room, 'bulled'-up recruiting vehicles and teams, but weekend recruiting exercises have been devised which 'involve' whole towns and townlands. Vehicles and men get purposely lost so that the locals whose aid is sought may be made to feel that their knowledge is indispensable to Britain's safety. What defence has a garage mechanic got when our Scammel breaks down outside his garage, his help is sought by very knowledgeable-looking soldiers, and he proves to be the only one capable of discovering a loose plug lead? Ten minutes of flattery from our entire L.A.D. and a couple of Guinness in the nearest bar and he's in!

Problems that only the greatest military brains could answer

A successful officers' study weekend was held in a Grade I hotel in Newcastle, Co. Down. The writer remembers only the highlights; there was too much 'study' and the usual problems answerable only by the greatest military brains in Europe were posed. A formal 'informal' dinner night was held at one stage, and afterwards, to use the C.O.'s own words: "Most of the officers proved that they could still swim in the new hotel pool when they were as wet inside as they were outside." **Colonel Chell,** the Deputy Group Commander, attended as an observer and, I noticed, 'observed' the two bus loads of air hostesses from Dublin who were also having a weekend conference. **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter MacGillivray,** the new CR Signals, N.I., gave a very interesting lecture and threw light on the activity of our C.O. in N.I.C. during the recent troubles, and **Major Oliver Eaton,** from 69 Squadron, Londonderry, told us about the activities of 13 Group.

Three for the T.E.M.

A parade was held at Clonaver Camp, during which three Territorial Efficiency Medals were presented by our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel J. McCann,** to **Second-Lieutenant Malone,** of our Lisburn Squadron, and **Staff Sergeant O'Brien** and **Corporal Roy,** R.A.P.C.

Other domestic news is that **Major Dixon,** O.C. 81 Squadron, and **Lieutenant Murphy** have had additions to their families, a boy and girl respectively. As **Q.M. Carnell** and **Captain** Roberts have been on the recce for 81's annual camp, the youngest Dixon may expect a bottle of Aphrodites Gripe-water or Cypriot bootees sometime in May.

Sport

A LITTLE CHILLY?
Apprentices College Sub-Aqua Club pose for the camera

The Silent World—on ice

or Scuba Diving in the local gravel pit

By W.O.II 'Geordie' Sanderson

LOOKING out of my office window, here in the frozen North of England, just after reading **Lieutenant David Moir's** article in the January/February issue of THE WIRE, I wondered if it was really worth the effort to attempt to run a diving club in such trying (very!) and miserable conditions as we suffer (literally!) in this part of the world—compared with what must be the luxurious diving conditions where **Lieutenant Moir** is.

However, despite our far from ideal circumstances, there is, here in the Apprentices' College, an ever-increasing enthusiasm for diving, and it is difficult to keep pace with the demand. The College Diving Club has a strength of nearly 30, comprising the Permanent Staff, Apprentices, two Senior N.C.O.s from the nearby American base at Menwith Hill, and a fireman from the local station. The Chief Instructor, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Barry,** has been 'down under' to see for himself what it is all about, and he, too, has 'caught the bug' and is now attending Scuba lectures.

For any doubters there may be, the accompanying photograph should be proof enough that diving actually does take place. It shows our local gravel pit where, below the surface, visibility is only three feet; to ensure safety, a rope circuit has to be put down so that we can find our way back . . . oh for the clear waters of the Pacific!

Talking of depths, **Lieutenant Moir** quotes 10, 20, 30, 40 feet for his first dive. Here, in our gravel pit, it is a case of 0, 3, 5, and a maximum of 7 feet, because at this depth the torch no longer gives sufficient light to observe the depth gauge. We assume that we have reached the bottom simply when we can go no further!

You may wonder why we bother to dive in such miserable conditions. That is a question which only someone who has dived can really answer. However, I should like to say, on behalf of the members of the College Diving Club, that we should dearly like to accept **Lieutenant Moir's** invitation and to be given the chance to dive in and appreciate the beauty of the clean and warm water. For myself, I have logged over 20 dives and established three diving clubs in various Royal Signals units—and yet, after twenty years, I am still waiting for an opportunity to dive in the Pacific.

One day, **Lieutenant Moir,** I may be able to accept your invitation; until then, good diving! . . . I have to go and 'referee' a snowball fight.

RUGBY

Corps v. R.M.A. Sandhurst—lost 12—6. 11th March.

Corps v. Royal Corps of Transport—won 18—8. 13th March.

School of Signals won the South West District Rugby Cup beating their opponents 14—3. 6th March.

ORIENTEERING

216 Parachute Signal Squadron won the 3rd Division Minor Units orienteering championships held at Bulford recently.

HOCKEY

8th Signal Regiment are through to the final of the U.K. Major Units hockey championships having beaten the Cheshires 3—0 in the semi-finals.

Stop Press.—They went down to S.E.M.E., Bordon, in the final, by the only goal scored.

CANOEING

The following eight members of the Corps have been awarded Army Colours for canoeing for the 1969 season:

Lance-Corporal R. G. Story, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset; **Lance-Corporal D. G. Alexander,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 46 (due posting to 11th Signal Regiment, June 1970); **Corporal M. J. Bull,** 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset; **Lance-Corporal T. Wilkinson,** 18th Signal Regiment, c/o G.P.O. Singapore; **A/Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 46; **A/Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 46; **Lance-Corporal A. Robinson,** 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset; **Sergeant M. A. Brett,** School of Signals (29 F. of S. Course), Blandford Camp, Dorset.

These awards were announced at the annual general meeting of the Army Canoe Union, which was held at the Ministry of Defence on Friday, 13th February.

Individual notificiation of these awards of Army Colours will be made in due course by the Army Canoe Union direct to each of the individuals concerned.

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The Scene Down Under

By Lieutenant M. D. Patterson, 249 Signal Squadron

WHEN I learnt that I was to be attached to the 2nd Royal Australian Signal Regiment at Watsonia Barracks, some 12 miles north-east of Melbourne, and having heard so much about the tough, rugged, bronzed Anzacs and their opinions of 'those Pommy bastards,' I viewed my attachment with some apprehension.

Before I left Singapore, I decided to do some homework on Australia. After I had spoken to a number of Australians, I gained the impression that only two parts of Australia were inhabited—Melbourne and Sydney—everybody either came from Melbourne or Sydney. The second impression was that there was no love lost between the two cities. The Melbournians thought I was very fortunate to be going to Melbourne and not Sydney; those from Sydney thought vice versa. However, my family and I arrived in Melbourne on 27th September last, on what turned out to be a very interesting and enjoyable six months.

Our arrival coincided with one of the two major events of the year—the Victorian Football League Grand Final, when 120,000 people packed the Melbourne cricket ground to watch the 'Footy' match of the year. Australian rules football is rather like rugby, but not so technical.

The second major event of the year took place early in November—the Melbourne Cup. The occasion is not unlike Royal Ascot Week in England. By this time I had found out the three 'major religions' of Victorians—'Footy,' racing and beer. I would not like to place them in any particular order of popularity!

But life was not all sport. My first Troop was a mixture of everything 2nd Signal Regiment had to offer—switchboards, field comcen, medium radio relay, TRC 90 detachments for long-range tropospheric scatter links, and HF radio detachments. The Troop was formed for Exercise 'Mozart,' one of the largest communications exercises ever undertaken by the the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. It was during this exercise that I realised just how big Australia really is; the Troop was deployed over a large area. The furthest relay site was some 210 miles from Troop H.Q., and because no helicopters were available, it meant a long drive to visit the relay.

I approached the exercise with a certain amount of caution. All the equipment used was of American design and manufacture, but although the equipment differed from our own, the procedures were almost identical. I had a very useful ally in **Sergeant Denis Hulme,** who was an ex-Royal Signals B1 comcen operator. The exercise was of tremendous value to me; the only way to learn is through experience, and being thrown in at the deep end helped.

Once Exercise 'Mozart 'was over, the Christmas celebrations and the most popular of Australian pastimes, beer-drinking, started in earnest. It took a long time to get used to drinking beer ice-cold and in ridiculous 6oz. glasses. Most of Christmas was spent in an alcoholic haze. I will always remember my wife being taken to task by the Adjutant, **Captain John Methven,** for daring to store FOOD in the fridge!

After the Christmas festivities, it was back to work, and this time as O.C. Medium Radio Troop, which consisted of some 6 x GRC—106 HF detachments (similar to the C11-SSB) and 4 x PRC-47/125 detachments. Again I was lucky in having **Sergeant Ken Tongue,** ex-Royal Signals, ex-S.A.S., as my Troop Sergeant, and was, perhaps, the most interesting part of my attachment. Most of the Troop were National Servicemen and represent a large cross section of the Australian Society. Basically, I found there is no difference between a 'Digger' and a 'Pommy' soldier.

There was a lot of 'give and take' on both sides. My 'Diggers' would ask me if it was true that 'Pommies' only bathed once a year, and I would ask them if they used Kangaroos for S.D.S. Another point that was often made by the 'Diggers' was about dress! I don't think they have ever seen two British officers dressed alike. One has to be very careful with one's bits of kit—side-hats, stable belts and spurs are all regarded as good trophies.

The world is a very small place indeed, especially in the Army. There were a number of ex-Royal Signals in 2nd Signal Regiment. Apart from **Sergeants Hulme** and **Tongue,** there was **Captain Colin Boughton,** one of the original Y. of S., and **Staff Sergeant Randall,** ex-Chief Clerk in C.S.O.'s Branch, FARELF.

The attachment was made even more enjoyable because people were so friendly and sincere. Everyone we met went out of their way to make us feel one of them. Friends showed us all the sights and places of interest. All this was greatly appreciated by my wife and I, and we hope one day to be able to do the same in return.

Saga of a Stable Belt or . . .

If you don't succeed at first, try, try again

An old maxim presented in a new light.

IN November of last year, I experienced a failure of the strap securing on my stable belt and ruefully decided to effect a replacement of the major item. An exploratory enquiry was made on the P.R.I. net and this revealed that a large stock of stable belts was held. However, they were all of one size and none were suitable for wear by this ageing and rotund officer.

This did not appear to present an insuperable difficulty and, on 26th November, I sent a letter with cheque enclosed to a firm well known for producing these belts, in which I stated my problem and requested that a belt of suitable length be forwarded to me. Meanwhile, I found it possible to secretively use a Service Cloth belt to secure my trousers. My confidence in the concealment of this item by my woolly pullover, was equalled only by my satisfaction in being able to WEAR that necessary piece of kit, a soft S.D. belt.

My cheque came back to me with a letter 'thanking me for returning the stable belt' and advising me that they didn't have a larger one in stock.

It was at this time that I got an odd feeling about my decision to buy a new belt but anyway, I thought I'd try a new tack and on 4th December, wrote a letter to the P.R.I. of a large Signal Regiment in the north in which I explained my dilemma and lack of success with the (named) well-known manufacurer. I asked if by chance he could assist and also added that I realised that this was a rather unusual source of supply that I hoped to tap and an uncommon channel of enquiry.

It was not long before I got a reply from a civilian clerk who advised me that they only had one size of belt and that they were not able to assist me in this matter. He went on to suggest that I write to the (named) well-known manufacturer and helpfully enclosed the address of same.

After a wry smile and, following the dictum that when one door shuts another opens, I rested awhile; and then decided to write to another manufacturer who had recently advertised in a magazine not unknown to Royal Signals personnel. On 30th December, I again wrote a letter and forwarded it, with cheque, to what was to be the latest recipient of my request for a one-off job.

December passed and we entered a new decade, January dragged its heels but finally gave way to February and all the talk of 'the new rates.' I sat fatly at my desk and puzzled now and again on the non-appearance of a new stable belt or even a 'Dear Sir' letter. On the 5th February, with hand shaking hysterically, I wrote a short letter, timedly enquiring on what the form was.

It was on the 10th February, 1970, that a small parcel was handed to me by a junior N.C.O. Sly comment at very low signal strength drifted through the office as I diffidently opened it to reveal the new belt which I shall happily wear until June when I put aside uniform for good.

I suppose if I'd kept off the spuds and plonk this problem would never have arisen.

'BUSTY'

'Stop Press' notes inserted here due to late submission. Moral — all notes to be in Editor's hands by the 12th of the month.

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

Hand/take-over certificates

'RECEIVED one Regiment plus one Bruno bear in good gruntle.' It may be supposed that **Lieutenant-Colonel David Barker** signed something to this effect on taking over command of the Unit. The welcomes and the farewells have since been said and done at all the Regimental nodal points—at Officers', Sergeants', all ranks' and civilian functions and for Mrs. Janne Barker, in the 1,000-tongued Wives' Club.

The special personal contributions made to the Regiment from 1967 to 1969 by **Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Hibberd** and **Christine** should now be recorded not only in quantitative terms—the period has seen the Regiment and its role virtually doubled and consolidated—but also qualitatively in terms of their humour and spirit and integrity and imperturbability. Our good wishes follow them on their new assigned-capability-role in B.A.O.R. with H.Q. Radio Group.

Transfer receipt vouchers

Quartermasters are as often as not the subject for tears rather than mirth. Therefore it is refreshing to broadcast the news that **Captain (Q.M.) Bill Finch,** whilst hand-feeding the deer in a nearby park over the weekend, turned his back unwisely on one heavily-antlered stag in order to placate stag No. 2 which was approaching from the south (assuming the Q.M. was pointing north originally). At this stage, stag No. 1 backed off three paces, revved up and butted the Q.M. smartly in his northern prospect (again assuming that prior to impact the Q.M. was pointing, etc. . . .).

Pips in the post

Special congratulations are due in triplicate to our Hounslow-based Corps triumvirate selected for commissions: **R.S.M. V. Thom, M.B.E., (Y. of S. (now Lieutenant) Coe** and **W.O.I (C.C.) Stroud.**

'L' plates off

Commendations are also merited in sextuplet by the following Unit successes on advanced drivers' tests: **Captain Peter Walls, R.S.M. Thom, Corporal Clarke, Lance-Corporal Fox, Lance-Corporal Bellwood, Signalman Rodd.**

Hysteric monument

A large travel-stained car roared on to the parade ground recently and decanted a number of characters with cameras. When challenged throatily by the R.S.M., the tourists replied in all innocence that they had 'only come to see the famous bear.'

There is one further event in the Lines with future tourist-potential. Three-hundred trees are being planted. Moreover, these are not just plain wooden trees but special selections with splendid latin names as long and foreign-sounding as the noises almost certainly made by Roman emperors when losing the soap in their Roman baths.

Pay review

The recent pay increases, even the new rates for the technicians, were dwarfed in scale at the time by the gargantuan amounts of message and S.D.S. traffic generated on their account. No doubt the Regimental experience reflected the pattern for the Corps at large but let it be put on record that our Comcens and S.D.S. staffs did a hard job well, particularly W.R.A.C. (Signals).

Feet

Our hopes have centred round our football team which has been in fighting fettle under **Sergeant Jobes** this season. In the last six matches versus Units of the Footguards in District Premier Division the team inflicted a total of 30 goals on the opposition and suffered eight goals in return. Unfortunately this was one goal too many. The Irish Guards beat us 2—1 in the event, despite the good efforts of **Signalman Roberts,** who also plays for the Corps.

Forthcoming events

Two Regimental diary dates may be of good spectator-value to the Corps fellowship in London:

6.30 p.m., Thursday, 7th May: A Combined Corps Band and Motor Cycle Display Team event at Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow.

10.30 a.m., Sunday, 10th May: Dedication of Corps Window by the Mayor of Hounslow with the Regiment, at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow.

Farewells

We have lost with regret a number of colourful Unit and Corps personalities on recent postings: **Major Ian Robinson, S.S.M. Prescott, Sergeant Strangwood, Sergeant Robinson. Major Bill Lavers** and **Sergeant Webley** go too on retirement with our best wishes for their future fortune. **Majors John Welch** and **Jimmy Fyfe** join us to redress the balance.

Chain of command

Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E., continues to watch over the fortunes of the Regiment from his new vantage-point as Commander No. 2 Signal Group having handed over the appointment of C.S.O. London District to **Lieutenant-Colonel Garmons-Wi'liams. Major Jimmy James** joins C.S.O. Branch Southern Command and we hope that **Ruth** will be safely out of hospital following her ski-accident by the time these notes appear. **Major (retd.) Bill Quinn** has left the Branch on retirement after notching up a total of nearly 50 years' service with the Corps, a record to be proud of.

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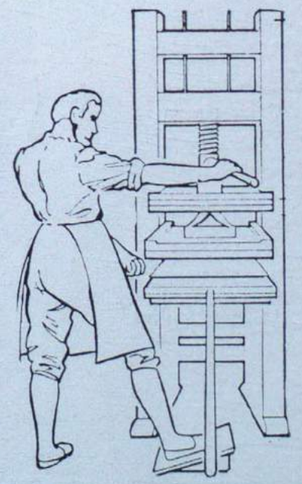

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23	890	„ „
24	925	„ „
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23	1085	„ „
24	1145	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1215	„ „

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Interviews will be arranged throughout 1970.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21492 Ext. 2270.

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May-June 1970

THE Wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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3) London: Vacancies also occur from time to time for Class 1 Technicians of all categories to work in our London Head Office on a career basis, especially for those with experience of telephone and telex exchanges, teleprinters, etc.

Write for application form giving brief details of experience, qualifications, age and availability date to: Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Dept. A483/355, Cable and Wireless Limited, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1.

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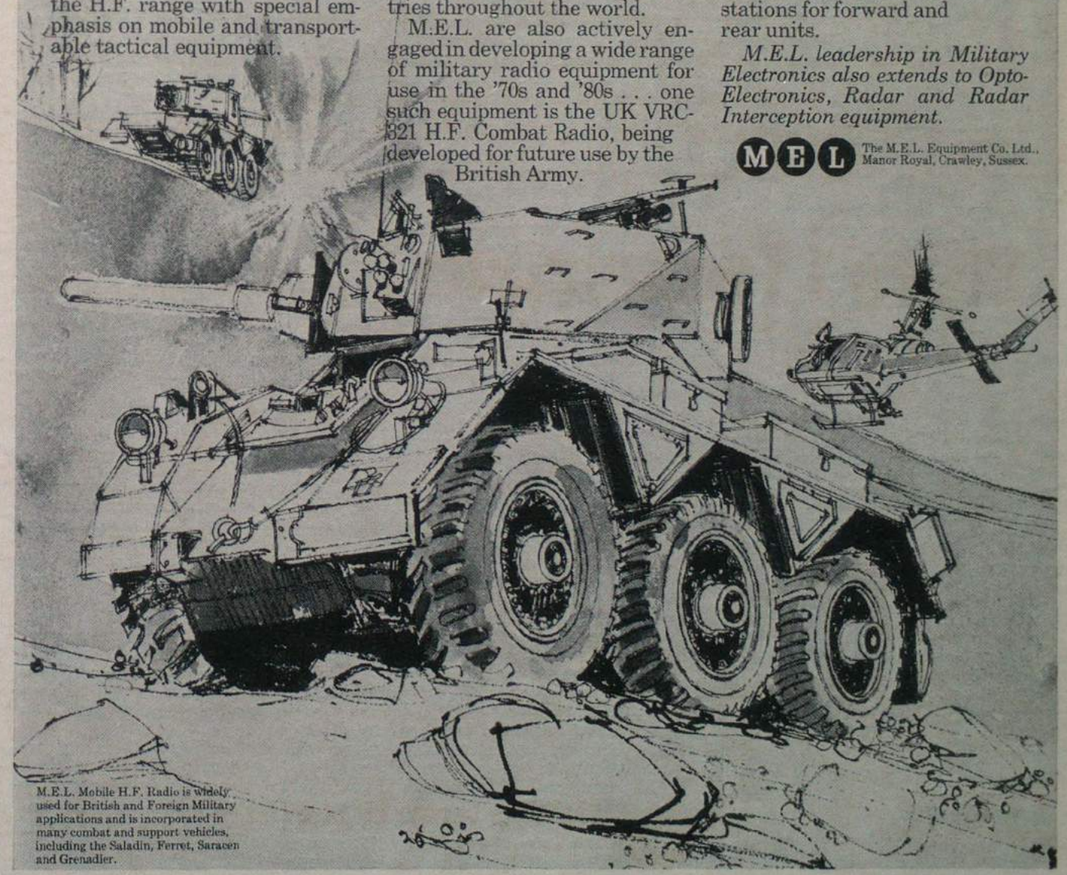

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THE WIRE

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

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MAY/JUNE • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 5**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month is of **Pipe Major Riley** and **Drum Major Robertson,** of 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), and was taken in the Officers' Mess of 51 (Highland) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) in Aberdeen.

The present Regimental Pipes and Drums were formed on 1st April, 1967, on amalgamation from the Pipes and Drums of 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., 52nd Lowland Divisional Signal Regiment, T.A., and 61st City of Edinburgh Signal Regiment, T.A.

This Regiment wears the red Grant Tartan by permission of **The Lord Strathspey,** Chief of the Name and Clan of Grant.

A Tribute to our Volunteers

IN this edition of THE WIRE we feature a Volunteer Unit — the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

As mentioned above a coloured photograph of two of their pipers appears on the outer cover of THE WIRE and on page 189 we reproduce an article describing the Regiment and its activities in more detail coupled with some remarks on and photographs of the Regiment's distinguished antecedents.

We would, however, take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute to all our Volunteer Regiments. Their spirit and keenness is excellent and the equipment issued to them is up-to-date. They have shown at camp and on exercises, including a number outside the U.K., that their signalling is competent and that they can be an efficient back-up to the Regular Corps. Their role is one of undoubted importance and all will be heartened to know that after the heart burning occasioned by the reorganisation of the Reserve Army the Corps has now reshaped its volunteer component to the best advantage.

Recently when addressing a meeting of the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** spoke of the Volunteers as follows:

"Just as the Regular part of the Corps has made tremendous strides so has the Volunteer element. The eleven Volunteer Regiments are a vital part of the Corps and without them we would not function. The communications provided by Volunteers became more and more sophisticated. They are well trained, reliable and high grade."

Review

"Through to 1970"

PUBLISHED by the Royal Signals Institution to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Corps and the centenary of the formation of the first Telegraph Units in the British Army. Price 12/6. Order forms from Units or from R.H.Q. Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

This is a very attractively presented publication. Numbering 144 pages in all it has 70 pages in two colours, 10 plates in full colour and no less than 270 illustrations and photographs.

Here, at last, would appear to be an original and welcome breakaway from the more formal approach to Regimental history. Clearly and simply written, with certain necessary exceptions, it steers clear of the detailed examination of particular Units and confines itself to a general and easy-flowing survey of military signalling from its earliest days through to 1970. The author's style is to the point and what he writes is pleasantly interlarded with anecdotes and a certain degree of dry humour.

This is a book most can pick up and read at one sitting without smothering a yawn or taking time off. Even if one is so blase as not to wish to be bothered with too much reading, a run through the many excellent illustrations and photographs can be thoroughly rewarding.

Here is military history presented in an easily assimilated form—a book for all ages and ranks—and their relatives—and a worthy tribute to the Corps on its 50th birthday. At 12/6 it is exceptional value. P.M.P.H.

Address to the Branch Representatives of the Royal Signals Association

By MAJOR-GENERAL P. F. PENTREATH, M.B.E., SIGNAL OFFICER-in-CHIEF

'The Wire' has pleasure in reproducing below an address made by the Signal Officer-in-Chief to the Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on the 11th April, 1970.

In his talk, the Signal Officer-in-Chief gave an up-to-date survey of Corps affairs in general and what he said will be of undoubted interest to all our readers, both serving and retired.

Introduction

IT is customary for the S.O.-in-C. each year to make a report to the Association, through you, the branch representatives, on the state of the Corps.

Looking round the country today, you see signs of many things going from bad to worse. Older people, senior citizens, like most of you, would not be human, I believe, if at the back of their minds, they did not have slight doubts about the modern Army, basing their fears on the fact that the Army is largely composed of young men, about 22 or under. It is generally from that age group that come the 'skinheads,' the 'hippies' and the 'protesters' of all kinds who seem, rightly or wrongly, to be in the forefront of disorder and non-compliance.

Well, I can only talk from knowledge of the Army from 1939 onwards but, in this time space, I do not think that the Army has ever been in better overall shape than it is now. It has reduced in size, as you know, but in so doing, has evolved into a most efficient and professional fighting force. Its soldiers, of all ranks, are excellent and, judging by the young men we are recruiting into Royal Signals, I am sure that we are getting a high proportion of the best young men the country has to offer.

The Corps has conformed to this evolution and advanced by leaps and bounds over the past ten years. It is impossible not to feel very enthusiastic, nor could I feel more proud to belong to Royal Signals. In this year of its 50th birthday, the Corps meets the modern requirement for sophisticated communications very well indeed, and I doubt whether any Arm of the Service fulfils its role better. Not that we are perfect and cannot improve; we can, and we have to admit to nasty problems in at least one communicating area, but there is tremendous enthusiasm to identify, tackle and solve any problems that arise. We have available large number of highly-qualified experts who can do this.

The Royal Signals' slice of the Army has slowly grown over the years, as the demand for communications has grown, and we are now about nine per cent of the Army. I can see no end to this steady demand for more and better communications. In a reducing Army, we cannot expect to increase our manpower allotment indefinitely, so we will be compelled to provide these extra communications without increased establishments.

Just as the Regular part of the Corps has made tremendous strides, so has the Volunteer element. The eleven Volunteer Regiments are a vital part of the Corps, and without them we would not function. The communications provided by the Volunteers become more and more sophisticated. They are well trained, reliable and high grade.

So much for a general look at the Corps as a whole. I will now deal with one or two subjects of particular interest.

Manpower

Those of you who were present at the meeting last year will remember mention of a cloud on an otherwise rosy horizon. That was shortage of regular recruits, in that our adult recruiting figure was running at about 40 a month against requirement four or five times greater. Well, that cloud grew and spread until it pretty well blanketed all our lives. Units went shorter and shorter, to the point where we, as a Corps, were just not able to do our full job. We did, in the end, get to such a state that some tasks had to be taken off us and, as some of you will know, we were eventually forced to withdraw all our soldiers from those small Troops serving with the R.A.C., Gunners, Engineers and Infantry, leaving behind only the Sergeant (in Infantry battalions) as an earnest of our intention to return some day.

It went very much against the grain having to do this. In its 50 years of life, the Corps has been justifiably proud of its members, right forward in combat units, sharing the hardships and dangers of their comrades in the other fighting Arms. The presence of our soldiers in those units has been a reminder to the Army as a whole of our existence and capability. But it is sensible that if we are short, we should hand over jobs in places where other soldiers can temporarily take them on. If we fall down on manning highly-technical radio relay chains, for instance, no one else can do it, and I should probably, quite rightly, get the sack.

Then we were helped by the Army itself. The Royal Pioneer Corps took over about a hundred posts in static units, and other Arms and Corps agreed to our being given priority in uncommitted recruits.

Lastly, we had a tremendous drive on recruiting ourselves. This, plus the priority we had been given, caused a healthy upsurge in numbers joining in October, November and December, 1969.

But we are still in difficulty. Numbers have fallen off slightly in 1970, and we need to keep the pressure on recruiting so that we get the few hundred we need to get us up to strength and, having done that, KEEP UP TO STRENGTH.

It is the switchback in Corps strength over the past ten years which has caused many of our troubles. A unit, short of men, faithfully meets its commitment by overworking those it has. This makes some soldiers fed up, and they either go out early or don't prolong their service. This increases the shortage, causing more overwork, and so the vicious circle goes on.

To put this right, we want far more regular recruits. Equally important, we also want those in to stay in. In this matter of recruiting, I am sure that you, the branch representatives of the Association, can play a big part. Please tell your friends, especially if they have young boys, what the Corps has to offer, and get every single young man you can to join us. The new Pay Code ought to help, and I will say some more about that later.

I have dwelt on recruiting and manning. Hardly surprising as I must, I suppose, deal with some sort of problem arising in part or in whole from the manpower shortage, at least once every hour of every working day. It is our biggest problem, and everyone in the Corps is aware of its effects, even if they are not all aware of the cause.

Deployment

Anguilla and Northern Ireland have affected the Corps to a minor or major degree since the last annual meeting. The

Anguilla situation has now quietened down, but we still maintain a small detachment there. Northern Ireland remains potentially explosive, as you all know. We find men for all these sudden contingencies from Strategic Command, which provides our first source of soldiers for emergencies. Many of the soldiers in Stratco are on the go around the world continuously, which is probably fine for the single man, but can be wearing for the wives of married soldiers. We are very aware of the consequences on families of excessive turbulence, and it is something we try to keep down. Alas, we are never as effective in reducing turbulence as we hope to be.

In the Near East, we have come out of Libya, and plans go ahead for our final withdrawal from the Gulf and the Far East, less Hong Kong. On 1st April, we finally abandoned Terendak, the big camp specially constructed for the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, and during this year we are contracting into Singapore, prior to final withdrawal from there by 31st December, 1971. The Garrison in Hong Kong is now directly under MoD, London.

All this contraction and withdrawal is depressing, but could be worse. We shall still retain a fair number of units overseas, in Hong Kong, Cyprus, Malta, plus contingents in the West Indies and some men in places like Oslo and Gibraltar. Nearly half the Corps will be on the Continent.

Starting this month, there is one of the biggest five-nation exercises ever held in the Far East. It is called 'Bersatu Padu' and the Corps is taking a big part. A Brigade Signal Squadron flies out from here, together with elements of other units, and we are using all our available resources in the Far East for umpire control communications. It should be very good experience for those involved.

Pay

I mentioned earlier the new pay code which I am sure you all saw in the papers when details were published. It is a new concept in that we now receive a 'military salary' which embraces what were formerly 'allowances'—i.e. marriage allowance and ration allowance. There is no longer any difference between the pay of single and married soldiers, the Services having come into line with practice in civilian life. A recruit now joining on a nine-year engagement gets £14/8/0 a week after tax deduction which compares well with what you drew when you first joined. Out of that he has to pay £1 12s. 0d. a week for his accommodation if he lives in barracks and £2 10s. 0d. a week for his food. He may pay a lower 'rent' if his accommodation is not up to standand.

A Staff Sergeant Foreman of Signals gets about £30 a week (after paying for his married quarter) in what industry calls take-home pay, which certainly isn't bad by any standards. There are a few anomalies in the code and we will be seeking to put these right, but in general there is satisfaction with it. We hope it will help recruiting and prolongation in the service.

The military salary includes a 5% addition. This is called the 'X' factor and is supposed to cover the discomforts of military life such as danger, turbulence, etc. I was amused to see a T.V. film of a platoon of infantry in N. Ireland taken at exactly midnight on 31st March. The commentator observed that here was a party of soldiers suddenly earning their 'X' factor as the stones, bottles and petrol bombs rained down on them. They certainly were—to the tune of rather more than 5% I thought.

Trade structure

After almost three years of intensive research we believe we have come up with a revised trade structure for the Corps which puts right what is wrong or out of date and meets our requirements for as far ahead as we can see. It would be quite wrong of me to give details to you before it is put to the Regular Corps but I can say that we seek to lessen the number of trades by combination of skills presently carried out by separate tradesmen. We are getting high calibre soldiers into the Corps these days. They can learn more and do more. If we can get greater use out of every soldier it will simplify the working of the posting machine, give C.O.s more flexibility, lessen turbulence and (who knows?) enable us to advance a soldier from a lower pay band to a higher one. We also need to look forward to the time when the computer comes into use in the field Army. Medium speed data will need to be passed over the field communication system and the new trade structure must make preparations for tradesmen to take their proper place in this field.

A!so incorporated into the new trade structure is the maximum alignment possible with industrial and civilian qualifications and requirements. We aim for the day when eventually all our tradesmen leaving the Corps will be able to pick up a well-paid job in civilian life because their trade and classification is recognised and understood by their civilian employer.

I have concentrated on the soldier and matters directly affecting him. Equipment is, of course, of the greatest importance to us, as well. There is a mass of activity in this field but suffice it to say that the Corps is now very well equipped indeed. There has been a truly staggering advance over the past ten years and the leap ahead in the next ten years will be as great again. We are undoubtedly keeping abreast of developments in communication electronics, and in some cases we provide the spur.

So what is the state of the Corps in its 50th year? Far better than some of us of the same age, I think.

It has all its hair and its teeth and its eyes look clearly ahead. No hearing aid hangs on its ear, and its mobility and endurance are fine. The only thing is a touch of anaemia. Red corpuscles in the shape of regular soldiers are just a little thinner than I would like. Please give me your aid in finding and administering an effective tonic.

To Mark 1970

A brand new recording by the Corps Band!

All will be pleased to learn that a new recording by the Corps Band will shortly be on sale at Association Headquarters (probably available by the time this WIRE reaches its readers).

The record is a 12in. double-sided stereo also suitable for mono reproduction. Recorded by E.M.I. it is sold in an attractive coloured sleeve with a Corps motif specially designed by **Miles Hutchins**—son of **Brigadier Peter Hutchins** of the Corps. The selections of music have been carefully chosen by **Captain Keith Boulding,** Director of Music, and include a march '50 Years Young' specially composed by him to mark the 1970 celebrations.

Side I entitled 'A Retreat Ceremony' comprises:

1. Fanfare, Edinburgh Festival — Cedric Thorpe-Davie.
2. March On, 50 Years Young — Boulding.
3. Static Item, Trumpet Voluntary — Clark.
4. Slow March, Golden Spurs — Rhodes.
5. Figure March, Trombones to the Fore — Scull.
6. Fanfare, White Helmets — Boulding.
7. Evening Hymn, Abide With Me — Arr. Thirtle.
8. Retreat Call, Sunset — Green.
9. March Off, The Corps March, Begone Dull Care — Arr. Pike.

Side II aptly entitled 'Begone Dull Care' comprises such cheerful music as:

1. Cornet-Carillon — Binge.
2. Maigret Theme — Grainer.
3. Frere Jacques — Arr. Kingsbury.
4. The Blue Tail Fly — Grundman.
5. Arrangers Holiday — Yoder.
6. Hootenanny — Walters.

The record sells at 25/- including postage and packing and can be obtained from Association Headquarters, R.H.Q. Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3. Cheques/P.O.s to be made out in favour of the Royal Signals Association and Benevolent Fund.

In order to avoid purchase tax the record can only be sold to bona fide members of the Royal Signals Association. All serving Officers and Soldiers who subscribe to Corps funds under the Day's Pay Scheme are, under Rule 6(d) of the Royal Signals Association, automatically annual members for each year while so doing. Annual membership of the Association for others costs 5/- a year.

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 N. Moss (M.O.D.), Captain G. A. Allen (Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate) and Sergeant A. Coldwell (3 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment)***

for forming a Corps triumvirate in the Army hockey team which beat the Navy recently by the odd goal in three. It was the first occasion that the Corps had been represented by three players in an inter-Service side, and both Army goals were scored by Corps players. **Major Moss** scored an equalising goal late in the second half and almost with the last hit of the match **Sergeant Coldwell** netted the winning goal for the Army. **Captain Allen** had an excellent game and at right-half was one of the best halves on the field.

— ***Major M. A. T. Hartnett (4th Regiment) and W.O.II K. H. Dale (7th Regiment)***

for carrying Corps colours onto the hockey field also, this time being selected to play in the B.A.O.R. side in the 1970 inter-Services matches. **Major Hartnett** will lead the B.A.O.R. side as captain.

— ***Lieutenant R. J. Skail (11th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron)***

for winning the B.A.O.R. individual Epee championship for 1970.

* * *

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.

DRESS FOR SERVING OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS ATTENDING SERVICE AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL 21st JUNE, 1970

The following amends previous instructions notified in THE WIRE.

OFFICERS: (Dress Regulations for Officers of the Army 1969 Pamphlet No. 1 General Instructions, refers).

a. *Colonel and above* (less Colonel with Marching Troops)
   (1) No. 1 Dress (Ceremonial) for those officers entitled to wear it.
   (2) No. 1 Dress, Sam Browne, Sword, medals and leather gloves for other officers of the rank of Colonel and above.

b. *Lieutenant Colonel and below*
   No. 2 Dress, No. 1 Dress Hat, Sam Browne, Sword, medals and leather gloves.

c. *Soldiers*
   (1) (On duty as ushers in Cathedral) No. 1 Dress, Medals.
   (2) (Attending Service but not with Marching Troops) No. 2 Dress, No. 1 Dress Hat and medals.

d. *Marching Troops*
   (1) *Officers*
   No. 2 Dress, No. 1 Dress Hat, sword, medals.
   (2) *Soldiers*
   No. 2 Dress, No. 1 Dress Hat, side arms, medals.

From our "In" Tray

The longest serving member of the Corps still in uniform? — What a bold statement

Sir,

Reference your letter 'Longest serving member of the Corps in Uniform' (March/April WIRE).

What a bold statement.

I enlisted in the Corps in June, 1928, Catterick 1928 Recruit Training. Posted to 'D' Troop Cavalry Division Signals Aldershot—O.C. Troop, **Major Morgan** and **Major Ponsonby.** Discharged 1936—'B' Reserve.

Re-enlisted in 1938 and posted to 2 Division Signals, Aldershot, attached to 16th Field Regiment R.A., Crookham. Personal D.R. to **Colonel Tyler** of the R.A.

B.E.F. France 1939 to 3rd June, 1940, as a Corporal D.R. Took the last verbal message from **Colonel Tyler** acting C.R.A. at Dunkirk: "Five rounds per gun. The guns were spiked." Mentioned in the book 'Sands of Dunkirk.'

Promoted Sergeant on return from Dunkirk and took over 57 D.R. Section before proceeding to Middle East. Still holding the nominal roll of this Section—a manuscript of A.F.G. 1098. On return from Middle East 1946 posted to War Office Signals as i/c Transport, Eaton Square, London. Promoted to S.Q.M.S. and posted to Air Support Signals, Minden, B.A.O.R.

Discharged 1949 and employed as A.A.I. Surrey T. & A.F. Association, Surbiton. 1956—transferred to 131 Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E., and promoted to R.Q.M.S. till Unit disbanded in March, 1968; transferred to South East T.A. & V.R. Association, Maidstone, as A.A.I. and Q.M. Duties, Surrey A.C.F., Guildford, where I hope to serve till 1974, a total of 46 years in uniform.

If you publish this report would you mention the Middle East Pigeon Section—dropping pigeons by parachute. My colleagues do not believe me. Also the horse called Nobby with the freedom of Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

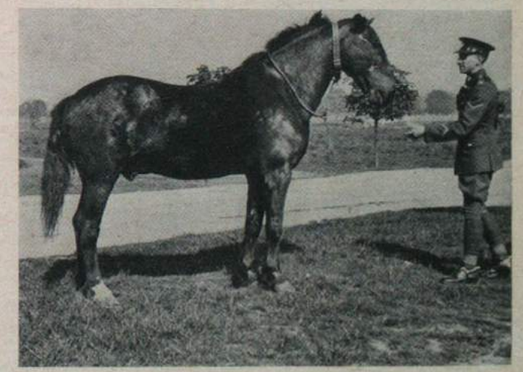
I am well known in the Corps as I could not stop a pig in a passage years ago.

Yours sincerely,

T. Dunkley (Ex 2319403 S.Q.M.S.).

24, Fir Tree Road,
Guildford, Surrey.

This is Nobby . . .



The horse Nobby was bought out of the ranks by the soldiers of the 1st Divisional Signals on reaching the age of 18 years and was turned loose in Mons Barracks. He never missed a NAAFI break. A photographic proof of the parachuting pigeons is available in the Corps Museum.—Editor.

More about life in Waziristan Signals— and some of the 'lively characters' met there

Sir,

Referring to recent issues in which Waziristan District Signals has been the subject of correspondence, may I (as a mere recruit—not joining Razbde until January, '37) say I have always been of the opinion that if that unit did not have all the Corps characters on its strength, then it had a very large proportion. To serve and learn one's trade with such company as existed in the three Brigade sections was an unforgettable experience. A pen sketch would not do justice to any individual and the humour that was generated by them all was too much to be retained by any one memory. Special instances stand out, like this one.

Scene: Datta Khel in the early morning. Razcol are in camp, accompanied by a party from District H.Q., and so, of course, the C.O. (a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Corps character) must accompany the column. 1st Division has sent a No. 3 set detachment for the purpose of testing the set, which was working back to 'Pindi. The C.O. visits the Signal Office tent and discovers the 3 set is 0.0.0. He demands the presence of the N.C.O.-in-charge detachment (a Lance-Corporal who had previously served with Razbde Signals and was posted owing to a misdemeanour involving whitewash).

The N.C.O. arrives.

C.O.: "Why are you not working, Corporal."

N.C.O.: "The generator has 'gone' sir."

C.O.: "Gone. It was there last night."

Collapse of local audience.

They were great days.

Just to put the record straight, may I remind **Major Banham** that there were two **Jock Morrisons** serving with Razbde. Both were distinguished by the nicknames 'Vas' (initials) and 'Chota' (being smaller in stature than 'Vas'). Good hockey and soccer players, both, 'Chota' holding his hockey stick in the conventional manner and 'Vas' holding his 'bukri,' one of the very few players I have seen do this successfully.

I regret to recall that 'Oscar' Wyatt died in hospital at Razmak, following a column in 1938, and he was buried in the military cemetery at Bannu.

The photo shows tea break outside the top bungalow at Razmak in 1938. Left to right (**John Briggs** not to be confused with **'Sailor' Briggs,** who was also with the section) **'Lofty' Downing** (as yet to win his M.M. on column), **'Buck' Taylor** (the Canadian), **'Jock' Grieves** (Cpl. Q.M.), and **Ernie Mole** (killed as subaltern in Malaya at the same time as **Colonel Rosenburg,** who commanded Wazdist Signals as a Major).

Yours faithfully,

G. A. Vincent

35, Kensington Avenue,
Morley, West Australia.

"Merlin?—He's just a boy" says Magnus Magnetron with a touch of asperity

Sir,

I regret that this letter must take the form of a mild protest over the claim made by 229 Signal Squadron, in the February/March issue of THE WIRE. I refer, of course, to the article depicting Merlin as the most highly-qualified signalman in the Corps.

Although we robots do not possess feelings, as do humans, I regret that my programmers have rather taken exception to the claim in question. I feel, therefore, that I must point out that I have been a serving robot for almost six years and, except for a one-day appointment as local R.S.M., I have refused promotion. My reason is simply that I feel my electronic brain gives me an unfair advantage over those I work with.

I note with interest that one of Merlin's many accomplishments is the ability to produce a random series of numbers, presumably for the purpose of encouraging the age-old human weakness of gambling, I need hardly add that I consider such employment beneath my dignity.

I would like to point out that I, too, am capable of speaking and listening, as well as moving my arm, head, mouth and ears—not to mention my blinking eyes.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Jones** and **Herr Janssen** on the ingenunity of their creation and to assure Merlin that I shall be keeping a 'fatherly' eye on his career.

Yours electronically,
Signalman (Robot, Class I)
Magnus Magnetron

c/o Royal Signals Demonstration Team,
School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

P.S.—During my service I have been featured in many national and local newspapers, as well as appearing on B.B.C. Television.

(I am glad to see that you have taken steps to put junior Signalman Merlin in his right place—an up-and-coming lad, no doubt, but lacking in your long experience and seniority.

I shall take particular pleasure in publishing your letter in the May/June WIRE, *especially as I had considerable contacts with your revered father, who served in the 1st Training Regiment, Catterick Camp (now 8th Signal Regiment) in 1947, when I was C.O.*

He was a great stickler for things being done properly, and often remained completely silent when questions, which I presume he did not approve of, were put to him.—Editor).

MAJOR N. C. MOODY

Major Moody writes to tell us that he has now retired from the Corps and holds a responsible job which entails a great deal of travelling in the North of England. He is constantly meeting many old friends, all ex-members of the Corps and, he says: "they seem to be astonished that I had at last retired, as they had not seen anything to this effect in THE WIRE.

Major Moody's address is: 186, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcs., and his friends can now get in touch with him at this address.

Corps Wedding

Lieutenant Noel Harrison and his bride, **Miss Gri Mullin,** who were married at the Garrison Church, Woolwich, recently. **Lieutenant Harrison** has just completed an R.A.C. Signals Course at Bovington. He was formerly with 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment.

His bride is the elder daughter of **Brigadier W. S. Mullin,** Chief Education Officer, H.Q., FARELF.

Earl Mountbatten at Indian Signals Association Dinner

Brigadier F. J. Allen, O.B.E., President, writes:

The 23rd Annual Reunion was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters Club on 18th April. One-hundred-and-fifty-three members and their wives sat down to dinner.

Admiral of the Fleet, **Earl Mountbatten of Burma,** the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott,** and **Major-General E. S. Cole** were the principal guests. **Earl Mountbatten** gave a most inspiring speech that will long be remembered by all those present.

Movements

Officers

Capt. D. J. Buckley	... ...	To 255 Squadron
Lieutenant G. A. Carmichael	... ...	,, No. 4 A.Y.T.
Lieutenant B. Cleaver	... ...	,, 252 Squadron (1st Comm.)
Lieutenant S. A. Coltman	... ...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant P. A. Cooper	... ...	,, 6 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Lieutenant P. R. Dick	... ...	,, 11 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
Lieutenant R. Dransfield	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Captain J. A. Eastgate	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) J. J. Elliott, M.B.E.	...	,, 252 Squadron
Lieutenant H. L. H. Feber	...	,, 37th Regiment (V) (1st Comm.)
Major J. A. H. K. Findlater	...	,, 39th Regiment (V) (as Lt.-Col., C.O.)
Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Furlonge	...	,, Royal Signals Records (Div. 1)
Major P. F. W. Gahan, M.B.E.	...	,, M.O.D. Signals 2 (as Lt.-Col., SOI).
Captain J. G. Greatrix	... ...	,, R.A.P.C. Trg. Centre (transfer in course)
Major P. J Hartshorn	... ...	,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.	... ...	,, M.O.D. (GS (OR) 1 Plans)
Lieutenant D. M. Hetreed	... ...	,, School of Army Aviation
Captain J. A. Hood	... ...	,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain R. C. Hood	... ...	,, 24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. and Sig. Sqn.
Captain C. T. A. Hughes	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Captain J. M. D. Hunter	... ...	,, Defence ADP Trg. Centre
Captain (T.O.T.) J. P. Jupe	... ...	,, MOD (ACEP)
Captain R. W. Kay	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) J. A. Kelly	... ...	,, AAC, Harrogate
Major A. D. Lewis	... ...	,, H.Q., L.F., Hong Kong (as Lt.-Col., C.R. Sigs.)
Lieutenant W. G. Lidster	... ...	,, AAC, Harrogate
Captain (Tfc.) G. E. Loudoun	...	,, 37th Regiment (V)
Major J. A. Montague	... ...	,, H.Q., British Troops, Malta
Captain (T.O.T.) A. J. Murray	...	,, 227 Squadron
Second-Lieutenant D. S. Pawlow	...	,, 8th Regiment
Major B. B. Postlethwaite	... ...	,, MOD (ACEP)
Captain (Q.M.) F. Richardson	...	,, 24th Regiment
Lieutenant A. J. Simpson	... ...	,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. (1st Comm.)
Major P. J. W. Stephens	... ...	,, H.Q., Southern Command
Lieutenant R. Stringer	... ...	,, School of Signals (1st Comm.)
Lieutenant J. E. Stroud	... ...	,, H.Q., 1st Signal Group (1st Comm.)
Lieutenant P. M. A. Whittaker	...	,, 11th Regiment
Captain E. G. Williams	... ...	,, 234 Squadron
Captain S. Wood	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (as Major, O.C. Squadron)

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s

W.O.I (F. of S.) P. Gill	...	To 14th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) A. Sharp	...	,, 2 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) H. Brown	...	,, Camp Commandant M.O.D. (H.Q. D.C.N.)
W.O.II W. A. Ramsay	... ...	,, 36th Cadet Training Team
W.O.II J. E. Taylor	... ...	,, 10th Regiment
W.O.II H. A. C. Meekings	...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. W. Cudlip	...	,, 602 Troop
W.O.II F. G. Froggatt	... ...	,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II J. M. Gittins	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
W.O.II W. C. Wheeler	... ...	,, 253 Squadron
W.O.II H. Bell	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II J. M. Haydon	... ...	,, 24th Inf. Bde.
W.O.II R. Smith	... ...	,, 32nd Regiment (V)
W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. A. Higgins	...	,, 8 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant D. F. Wilson	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) H. J. Omahoney	... ...	,, 24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) W. Hill		,, 264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. G. Harding	...	,, 11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. G. Widdicombe	...	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. W. Scott	...	,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. G. Feltham	...	,, 11th Regiment

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.

Staff Sergeant R. F. G. French	...	,, 32nd Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant P. J. B. Tuppenney	...	,, 4 Guards Bds. Signal Sqn.
Staff Sergeant J. Sinnett	...	,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant J. W. A. Clarke	...	,, 217 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Baxter	...	,, Edinburgh O.T.C.
A/Staff Sergeant D. J. Geere	...	,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant F. D. Rogers	...	,, 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant L. K. Dickey	...	,, 8 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant J. D. Mays	...	,, 7th Regiment
Staff Sergeant P. J. Bunting	...	,, 37th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. F. Duffey		,, 242 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. M. Keasey	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant E. G. Jeffries	... ...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Clarke	... ...	,, 240 Squadron
Sergeant W. H. Elliott	... ...	,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant D. H. Muir	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant B. D. M. Green	... ...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. J. Antcliff	... ...	,, 242 Squadron
Sergeant J. G. Humphreys	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant R. A. Laidler	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant R. T. Haskell	... ...	,, 261 Squadron
A/Sergeant M. Andreou	... ...	,, Army Parachute Centre
Sergeant J. W. Brand	... ...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant R. G. Walkinshaw	... ...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant J. P. F. Nay	... ...	,, 39th Regiment (V)
Sergeant B. Green	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant F. J. Stacey	... ...	,, 4 Div. Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Franks	... ...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Sells	... ...	,, 21st Regiment
Sergeant W. Semple	... ...	,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant P. D. Cole	... ...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant R. Benwell	... ...	,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant T. A. Hammill	... ...	,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant J. C. Jackson	... ...	,, 5 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. T. Nichols	... ...	,, School of Signals (Y. of S. Course No. 19)
Sergeant P. J. Cadman	... ...	,, School of Signals (Y. of S. Course No. 19)
Sergeant B. A. Rice	... ...	,, School of Signals (Y. of S. Course No. 19)
Sergeant K. Lister	... ...	,, Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon
Sergeant D. W. Barnes	... ...	,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. Sinnett	... ...	,, School of Signals (Cadre)
Sergeant N. N. Sheard	... ...	,, 234 Squadron
Sergeant J. Philemon	... ...	,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant R. G. Pond	... ...	,, 244 Squadron
A/Sergeant D. K. Whitley	... ...	,, 244 Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Humphries	... ...	,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant E. D. Little	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. S. Walder	... ...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant L. K. Dickey	... ...	,, 8 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant P. H. Franklyn	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant G. J. Griffiths	... ...	,, 22nd Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Pursell	... ...	,, 7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. A. Adlington	... ...	,, 226 Squadron
Sergeant W. E. Currums	... ...	,, 233 Squadron
Sergeant J. M. Higgins	... ...	,, 34th Regiment (V)
Sergeant M. J. Featherstone	... ...	,, 3 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant W. Helme	... ...	,, 13th Regiment
Sergeant A. A. Winstanley	... ...	,, C.V. H.Q. and Trg. Wing
Sergeant D. C. Parry	... ...	,, 216 Para. Signal Squadron
A/Sergeant R. Allison	... ...	,, F.V.R.D.E.

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Hough, W. J.	1670	2820	
	A/W.O.I	Filder, E. S.	1680	3220	
	A/W.O.I	Mason, K.	1700	3000	
	A/W.O.I	Johnson, P. S. W.	1710	3290	
	A/W.O.I	Aven, G. A.	1740	3540	
	A/W.O.I	Overland, P. B.	1750	2430	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Jones, J. F.	5200	5104	
	A/W.O.II	Harvey, W. J.	5210	2020	
	S Sgt.	Loome, D. J.	5220	5100	
	S Sgt.	Jones, R. A.	5230	5080	
	S Sgt.	Stirling, A. J.	5250	5380	
	A/W.O.II	Isaac, R. J.	5260	5200	
	S Sgt.	Blank, J. H.	5270	5230	
	S Sgt.	Frost, J.	5290	5330	
	S Sgt.	McGregor, R. A.	5300	5340	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Warren, R. C.	6150	210	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Tuppenney, P. J. B.	6190	130	(E.D.)
	Sgt.	Teague, M. W.	6200	700	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Homewood, C. E.	6240	280	(Clk. Tech.)
	A/S Sgt.	Carr, D. H.	6250	690	(Dvr.)
	Sgt.	Banks, J. C.	6280	5330	(Tech.)
	Sgt.	Tibby, E. C.	6300	590	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Cumming, B. A.	6320	114	(Clk. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Widdicombe, J. G.	6340	320	(Clk. Tech.)
	Sgt.	Stark, R. L.	6370	180	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Dickey, L. K.	6380	1070	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Johnson, H.	6390	1270	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Bowman, J. D.	6410	290	(E.D.)
	Sgt.	Sheridan, M. J.	6430	280	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Feltham, W. G.	6450	90	(R.R. man)
	Sgt.	Davis, K. O.	6500	120	(E.D.)

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Storey, L. G. H.	140	60

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Powell, G.	1620	1860
	S Sgt.	Storie, E. S.	1630	1800
	S Sgt.	O'Mahoney, H. J.	1640	1830
	A/W.O.II	Wootten, D. S. J.	1660	1540
	S Sgt.	Cooke, H. M.	1670	1720

TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Eaton, J. W.	9314	15194
	Cpl.	Kemal, S.	9316	13268
	Cpl.	Budworth, E. L.	9322	14125
	Cpl.	McGrath, R. P.	9327	14314
	Cpl.	Smith, M. S.	9328	12805
	Cpl.	Mooney, C. J.	9329	13624
	Cpl.	Harfield, A. J.	9340	15384
	Cpl.	Threlfall-Searson, A.	9345	14488
	Cpl.	Rodgers, F.	9350	15431
	Cpl.	Underwood, K. A.	9380	15552
	Cpl.	Robertson, D. B.	9407	15763
	Cpl.	Hickman, A. R.	9460	10735

TELEGRAPH OPERATORS ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Sanford, T. F.	1050	1410
	Cpl.	Thomas, D. M.	1100	840
	Cpl.	Neillings, B. P.	1120	1530
	A/Sgt.	Davis, M. J.	1170	2310

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Bell, E.	510	360

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Firth, G. A.	870	1010

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Spratt, P. D.	1380	130
	Cpl.	Curry, J. W.	1390	310
	A/Sgt.	Isherwood, J.	1400	950
	Cpl.	Easton, C.	1420	1870
	Cpl.	Jamieson, T. W.	1430	1220
	Cpl.	Jeffrey, R.	1450	1700

ELECTRICIAN DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Andreou, M.	400	180

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Alcock, S. M.	1890	360
	A/Sgt.	Taylor, T. R.	1900	1700
	A/Sgt.	Johnson, K.	1920	300
	Cpl.	Willock, J. H.	1930	1660

INSERTIONS

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

	Sgt.	Brooking, D. E.	54	100 (Comcen Op. Roll)

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.I 1090

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.II 2210

CHIEF CLERKS ROLL

W.O.I 460
W.O.II 690

TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgts. 5760 5945 6175 6470 7558

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt. 470

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgts. 1410 1460

UPGRADING COURSES AT CATTERICK

Serial	Course	Class	Assembles	Disperses
1/57	Technician Radio	II-I	11 Aug. '70	25 Mar. '71
1/39	Technician TE	II-I	4 Aug. '70	18 Mar. '71
1/47	Comcen Operator	II-I	25 Aug. '70	20 Nov. '70
2/62	Telegraph Op.	III-II	4 Aug. '70	13 Nov. '70
2/63	Telegraph Op.	III-II	31 Aug. '70	10 Dec. '70

Clothing Gifts

Since the beginning of the year, gifts of clothing, toys, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Colonel E. J. Bardell, Mrs. J. R. West, Mrs. D. E. Blease, Major J. L. Donne, Mrs. Nutt, Captain R. Iliffe, Captain Swallow (W.R.A.C.), Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. E. G. Day, 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment, Corporal J. Rogers, Major J. H. W. Roake, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, Major and Mrs. J. L. Botterill, Sergeant and Mrs. J. H. Goodman.

244 Signal Squadron (Tac. Air Sp.), Major E. F. Prockter, Colonel P. R. Hoskins, Major I. E. Simpson, D. R. Balfour Park, Esq., A. Walsh, Esq., Mrs. N. Church, Major G. Dibley, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, W.O.I J. E. Stroud, Mrs. C. Rodgers, Major J. McKail, Hannover Station Thrift Shop, Sergeant Robinson, A. C. J. Chalmers, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. C. L. Ommanney, Executors of the late Capt. (Q.M.) Rogers.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Goddard, Brigadier C. G. Moore, Mrs. F. Straight, A. W. Smith, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Scott, Mrs. Foulds, W.O.II (Y. of S.) M. Harrison, Major V. R. Clarke, Mrs. A. Sawyer, Mrs. W. Weir, Garrison Thrift Shop, Barnard Castle, Captain and Mrs. A. G. Harfield, Mrs. V. A. Heath, W. E. Osborne, Esq., North London Branch, Royal Signals Association, Major and Mrs. T. Rigby.

GLAMOUR AIDS T.A.V.R. RECRUITING

Miss Great Britain 1970 and an equally glamorous colleague helped 39th Signal Regiment (V) in their recruiting drive outside the Royal Exchange, London, recently. The C.O. Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Walker even made a personal effort to recruit the girls themselves. The faces of F. of S. Jones and Sergeant O'Mahoney in the background seem to suggest they do not have much hope of the Commanding Officer's success in this direction

☆ ☆ A Story from north of the Border ☆ ☆

Some reflections on being posted to the Volunteers . . .

By Captain (Tfc.) T. Johnstone, Royal Signals

". . . a definite sense of purpose everywhere and a great keenness . . ."

THE telephone rang—it was 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) asking when I would be arriving in Glasgow to take over, the first intimation of where I was next to serve. 'Glasgow' immediately conjured up a vision of tenements, of gales and a violent population whose speciality is shooting at the police, so I wondered what I was letting myself in for. I was soon to find out.

My first morning north of Gretna was the coldest in 30 years, and was variously remarked upon by other members of my family in the car. Passing through Annandale, **Andrew,** the genealogist of the group, commented that it was here the Johnstones came from. His sister **Bridget,** gazing at the snow-covered landscape, came to life sufficiently to question the wiseness of our move. Just then a huge Pickford's van wooshed by showering my windscreen with mud and slush and careered on with its rear end moving like an agitated gander. "There goes our dinner set," sighed my wife.

The snow was like mud

Glasgow was different, here the snow was like mud; we had arrived. The weather was the main topic of conversation at R.H.Q. and I began to feel that somehow I might have brought the cold snap with me.

Everyone told me I would like the Brigadier. Of course I would I had replied. Then I frowned as another thought struck me. "Are you Scottish?" asked the great man eyeing my King's African Rifles tie, as I glanced at his Gurkha one. "Oh, Irish," was his comment to my reply. Later I told my wife not to unpack for a day or two. At least I would have added a glengarry to my collection of headgear, which already included a King's Africa Rifles hat and a United Nations beret.

My first drill night and training weekend were in Glasgow with 52 (Lowland) Signal Squadron (V) who can trace their descent from 1st Lanarkshire Volunteer Military Engineers, formed on 28th November, 1859, and the first volunteer engineers to be raised. In the last war, 52 (L) Division Signals during the battle for France in 1940 came under the orders of the French Tenth Army. By the direct intervention of **General Brooke,** they were released from French command and re-embarked for U.K. But for his timely intervention 52nd Division might well have shared the fate of the 51st. Back in Britain they were retrained as mountain troops and in reserve until 1944 when they, together with the 2nd Canadian Division, were committed to the swamps of Walcheren as a prelude to opening the port of Antwerp. In all this movement, training, inaction and action the signal regiment played its vital part.

Wullie's weak chest

Now at Squadron strength, commanded by **Major Eddie Shaw,** with permanent staff officer **Captain John Hutchison** to help him, they are mainly recruited in the Glasgow area. It was on that first training weekend that I was introduced to the dry Glasgow sense of humour when I heard one say to another:

"Where's Wullie the night?"

"Well the big steam hammer at the works cam' doon on his chest and near killed him."

"Eh, puir auld Wullie, but ye ken, he aye had a weak chest."

The S.S.M., **W.O.II Jimmy Jamieson** (an Engineer in the G.P.O.), and a former Royal Marine, is currently increasing the tempo after the New Year party hangovers, while **Staff Sergeant Margaret Waddell** (a Supervisor in the G.P.O.) is coaching the girls towards the forthcoming trade tests. The standards achieved by these girls are most impressive. The Squadron now has, thanks to the Permanent Staff Foreman of Signals **W.O.II Tom Stoddart,** some very well-fitted operating vehicles and training facilities which would do credit to a Regular Unit.

Is this what all that fuss is about?

As a U.K.L.F. gateway Squadron, they have a large number of D11s and D13s to man. **Captain Walter Boyle,** the Squadron Second-in-Command and Training Officer, and brother-in-law **Captain Finlay Fountain,** the Radio Officer, are both raring to go, and the coming of spring should see considerable activity in the area. They are confident that, on the day, they will communicate with anyone—I might even agree with them.

I had not seen much of Scotland save the slush-covered ribbon from Gretna to Glasgow, and Glasgow in winter is not the most beautiful city to behold. So I began to wonder what all the fuss Kenneth McKellar, Andy Stewart, Harry Lauder and others created, was all about. Then I took a train for Aberdeen (145 miles and 3½ hours distant) on the first sunny day I had had in Scotland and found out.

On my road lay Stirling, Perth, Dundee and Stonehaven. Through lovely valleys, across rushing stream and by roaring shore. I saw ruined abbey, strong castle, lonely cross and everywhere the verdant greens which rival the forty shades I have heard of from elsewhere. At last Aberdeen, well named the granite city, wide, clean and business-like.

The home of a special breed

There is a well-founded drill hall at Fonthill, on entering which one is left in no doubt that this is the home of a special breed. Posters sporting feathered bonnet and colourful phillabag see to that, for this is the stronghold of 51 (Highland) Signal Squadron (V) who are descended from the 1st Aberdeenshire Royal Engineers (Volunteers), formed in 1875.

The fame of 51st Highland Division and its signal regiment hardly needs repeating here. The terrible disaster of St. Valery was soon avenged in North Africa and Italy, and St. Valery recaptured by the Division on 2nd September, 1944. They were first across the Rhine and the ruins of Berlin heard the skirl of their pipes in the allied victory parade, to be repeated when their massed Pipes and Drums led the Commonwealth and Empire victory parade through London. Now shrunk to a squadron but no less proud of their past, they are preparing quietly for the next time, should the need for them arise again.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums are now based in Fonthill, the pipers and drummers doubling as a defence platoon for the Gateway. In the Officers' Mess hangs the pipe banner presented by **H.R.H. Princess Royal** in 1938 and a replica of this is carried by the Pipe Major.

The night I was there, **Captain Bill Tyers,** the Squadron permanent staff officer, struggled up from his sick bed to attend, but was persuaded by the Squadron Commander, **Major David Sutherland,** to return to it. The C.O. was briefing the Squadron Officers on a big manning exercise to be held as our Fitness for Role inspection by **Brigadier Robertson,** the Group Commander. The exercise has stimulated great interest and will undoubtedly provide the motivation which is so important where volunteers are concerned. I found that this particular Squadron has a big training problem; until recently they were required to produce predominantly outdoor trades, now it is mainly to man D11s, C11s and comcens. **W.O.II Bartlett,** their Yeoman of Signals (whose wife is a W.R.A.C. Sergeant in the Squadron), was explaining how the civilian Sight and Sound method of teaching keyboard operating had been adapted for Army use, and the results achieved by linemen at camp using this. I had previously been told of the tremendous challenge that faced me and I was now beginning to appreciate exactly what was involved. I left Aberdeen having no doubt that they are the Highland Squadron, who are ready at any time to work with the remainder of the Regiment.

Distinguished antecedents of the present day 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

PAST HISTORY

In 1859 on 28th November a meeting in Glasgow of engineers, architects, surveyors and other technical gentlemen, decided to raise there and then a Volunteer Engineer Unit. They did not register with the War Office until February 1860 by which time the London Engineer Units had got in first as the most senior.

In 1894 the officers aided by bazaars, fetes and galas, raised enough money to build the headquarters at Jardine Street, and when the Lanarkshire Engineer Volunteers moved in they already had a telegraph company.

Two full sections volunteered for active service in South Africa and served with 9th Field Company R.E. in 8th Division. In all 99 members served in South Africa. By 1907 there were 64 officers and 2,100 soldiers in the 1st and 2nd Lanarkshire Engineer Volunteers. When the Territorial Force was raised in 1908 the Lanarkshire Volunteers were responsible for an airline company, a wireless company and the 52nd Lowland Division telegraph company. 52nd (Lowland) Signal Squadron (V) now forms part of 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Officers of the Lanarkshire Volunteers (Royal Engineers)—Circa 1879. 2. One company of the Lanarkshire Volunteers embodied and departing for the Boer War—Chatham 1900. Note the two pipers on the left. 3. Radio Detachment 52 (Lowland) Divisional Signals, on summer camp, Troon 1921, with a 120 watt set. 4. H.R.H. The Princess Royal inspecting the Guard of Honour when she presented pipe banners to 51st (Highland) Divisional Signals and 52nd (Lowland) Divisional Signals at the Empire Exhibition on 8th June 1938.

The Regiment's youngest element

61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron (V) historically are the Regiment's youngest element, having started after the war as 13 A.A. Group Signal Regiment, T.A. The permanent staff Q.M., **Captain Peter McNaughton,** was a P.S.I. with the Irish A.A. Independent Squadron and camped with that Regiment in 1953-54. On the demise of A.A. Command in 1954 they eventually became 61st (City of Edinburgh) Signal Regiment T.A. and were granted their present title on reorganisation in 1967. Very conscious of being part of 'Auld Reekie,' I was told by them that there was no real rivalry between Glasgow and Edinburgh, there didn't have to be.

Captain Bill Crook, soon to take over as Squadron Commander, was in the middle of organising a trade test when I arrived. It was very apparent that here trade training is taken very seriously with more men and girls being tested than in any of the other squadrons. Their results, especially on voice procedure, were later to show how effective the instruction had been.

The permanent staff officer **Captain Jimmy Dunbar,** an old Corps character, is firmly in the saddle while the S.S.M., **W.O.II Weddell,** knows who really runs the Squadron. The Yeoman, **W.O.II McGrath,** an old Boddington hand, together with **Sergeant McLaughlin,** W.R.A.C., clearly have the comcen side buttoned up, while **Staff Sergeant Blair** has instruction on the D11 and C11 well under control. 61 Squadron in their modern drill hall do not in any way resemble the indolent militia shown in the elaborately framed pictures which line the corridors as memories of yesteryear.

. . . and so to Northern Ireland

My journey to Northern Ireland was effected with clinical efficiency by B.E.A. and I was met at Aldergrove by **Craftsman Murray** of 69 Squadron in his civilian guise of Squadron V.M. Although the night was dark, dismal and foggy he drove through town and over mountain with the easy nonchalance of a '**Paddy**' **Hopkirk** traversing the Alpes Maritimes on the home stretch of the 'Monte.' The 60 miles to Londonderry were soon covered. Here **Captain Jack Wall,** the Squadron permanent staff officer, was waiting for me at the City Hotel in the midst of a horde of ghoulish newsmen and expectant students preparing for a 'demo' the following day. I listened for a while to their stewards cooly assessing their chances in the steward-of-the-year stakes, run in competition with certain gentlemen in Paris and Tokio.

The North Irish Horse were raised in 1902 as Imperial Yeomanry, in response to **Kitchener's** demand for additional mounted troops for South Africa (at that time **Earl Kitchener** was Honorary Colonel of the forbears of 52 (L) Signal Squadron (V)), but did not see any fighting until 1914 when they were one of the first Yeomanry regiments to see action in France. They emerged from the war with few of their original members but 17 battle honours.

A noteworthy part in North Africa and Cassino

The last war saw them in action first in North Africa in 1943. With their Churchill tanks they played a noteworthy part in the Longstop Hill battle and subsequently in the race to Tunis. On to Italy in 1944 and Cassino where, together with the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade, they pierced the Hitler Line but lost 36 tanks in the process. To commemorate this the Canadian Commander-in-Chief awarded them the privilege of wearing the Maple Leaf.

Though demobilised in 1946 with nine additional battle honours, they were soon back in business, and in 1947 re-formed as a T.A. Armoured Car Regiment. After the various reorganisations of the T.A. and T. & A.V.R., two Squadrons and a Cadre remain to the North Irish Horse—'D' Squadron and Cadre at Belfast still equipped with armoured cars, and 'B' Squadron, now 69 (N.I.H.) Signal Squadron (V). Training for their new role brought 'B' Squadron no few problems. Instead of driver/operators and gunners, they had to learn morse and how to operate a teleprinter so that they could man D11s and C11s, and staff comcens in place of Saladins—no easy task even for a regular unit, and all this taking place in the midst of the serious social unrest in Londonderry.

I was now to meet the Squadron at first hand. Introductions were soon over, and business was brisk and straightforward—training requirements, trade testing, recruiting, G1098 stores, works services, transport. They knew what they wanted and clearly meant to get it! They are poorly housed in Duncreggan Camp, on the outskirts of the city, which they temporarily have to share with an infantry company on an emergency tour, but despite this their training facilities are more than adequate. In the year since they took over a derelict former allied officers' club of the 1939-45 war, much has been done, but the frustrations of lack of money, and procrastination in the works department and ordnance chain were evident.

Youth with a leavening of experience

The personnel of the Squadron are well suited—youth, with a leavening of experience in their seniors, **W.O.II Dykes, Staff Sergeant Mackenzie** and **Sergeant Moore.** The Squadron Leader, **Major Oliver Eaton,** ably seconded by rugger player **Captain Scott Buchanan,** is under no illusions about the long haul towards communicating efficiency, though they are all cautiously optimistic about their progress.

On the return journey to Glasgow my thoughts turned to what I had seen during my tour of the Regiment—up to date equipment and high quality military permanent staff. But what use are these without the Volunteers — hardly any of whom served in the Regular forces either on a Regular or a National Service engagement. There was a definite sense of purpose everywhere and great keenness, particularly amongst the girls who are as good, or better, than their Regular counterparts.

Like the four tribes of Israel

I likened them to four of the tribes of Israel. But I know that our Commanding Officer, **Colonel David Cattermull,** will not wait 40 years to lead us up to Jericho, nor will he be satisfied with rams horns as our means of communication.

Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

Graduation Day, Spring 1970

THE College's spring graduation ceremony was the first for the Commandant, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** at the last for **Band Sergeant-Major G. Evison** (D. & D.), shortly to retire from the Army after 11½ years at the College.

A/T R.S.M. William Paterson

Some 640 apprentices were on parade, and a large crowd of spectators assembled in honour of the 51 apprentices who were leaving the College for the Corps.

The parade was commanded by **A/T R.S.M. William Paterson,** who will next term gain the distinction, unique in the College's history, of being R.S.M. for two consecutive terms.

Reviewing Officer for the day was **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Signals) and Colonel Commandant of the Corps.

The Commandant, having welcomed our guests, pointed out that 30 of the 'graduates'—19 technicians and 32 operators—would start their Regular service overseas. Of the remainder, many were posted to 3rd Division, and so are liable to find themselves abroad at very little notice.

He went on to list the College's achievements throughout the term, both academic and sporting. In the latter sphere, the soccer team reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire Services' League and the quarter-final of the Army Cup; the rugby XV, having reached the Northern Command final (Army Cup) for the first time ever, were defeated by the more experienced 8th Signal Regiment; the hockey team were knocked out of the Army Cup only in the Command final; in squash, the College A/T team are Army Junior Champions, in individual tournaments, **A/T Corporal Kevin Bertin** is Army Junior Champion and Northern Command Soldiers Champion, while **A/T Roy Sinclair** gained national fame by defeating the G.O.C.-in-C., **General Sir Cyril Blacker, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** thus helping the College team to win the Command final; at basketball, we won the Army Junior Major Units' Championship, while Scott Squadron won the Minor Units Championship; in fencing, **A/T Graham** is Yorkshire Open Foil Champion, and Northern Command Champion-at-Arms (foil, sabre and epée: he continues to represent the Army. In more intellectual spheres, the Drama Club came second in the Army Junior Drama Festival.

In his speech, following the presentation of prizes, **General Anderson** had high praise for the turnout, marching and bearing

BAND SERGEANT MAJOR G. EVISON

April 8th saw the last appearance on Graduation Parade of Band Sergeant-Major G. Evison, Devon and Dorset. This was his 34th such parade—including rehearsals he makes it his 340th!—for he has served the College for 11½ years. He is thus easily our oldest military inhabitant.

Born in Knaresborough in 1931, Geoffrey Evison was educated at King James's Grammar School. He joined the Dorset Regiment in August 1946 as a Bandboy, having learnt to play the Bugle with the West Yorkshire Battalion of the Army Cadet Force.

He has served in Austria,—including two years in Vienna—Hong Kong and Japan, and Germany, and came to the College in February 1959. Married, with three children, Sergeant Major Evison hopes on retirement from the Army next term, to teach music in Yorkshire. All members, past and present, of the College, and not only of the Bands, wish him well

of all those on parade, especially in view of the bitter cold. He congratulated the bands on maintaining the high standard of music, which was so much a College tradition, and commended **A/T R.S.M. Paterson** for his excellent handling of the parade.

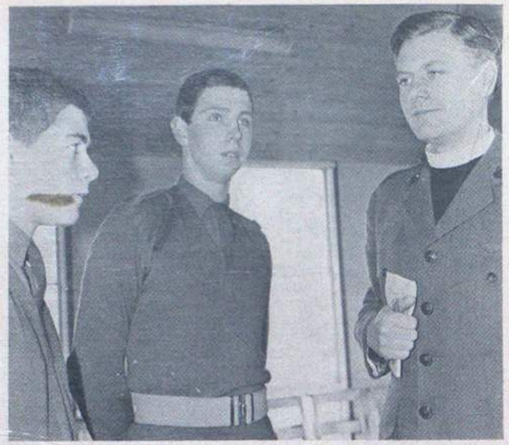
The General assured those leaving that they were entering "an honourable calling in which many virtues are encouraged, such as loyalty, courage and enthusiasm, to which are added technical skill." This, he added, was especially true of Royal Signals, to which the College had always provided an excellent entry. He concluded his remarks by reminding the audience of a 'turbulent' former Commanding Officer who had once told him: "I don't give a damn what you do, as long as you do something. The cardinal sin,' said **General Anderson,** "is idleness."

Major prizes were presented as follows:

The Army Commander's prize (for all-round excellence): **A/T R.S.M. W. T. Paterson.**

The Commandant's prize (for conduct, discipline and example): **A/T Sergeant D. G. Naylor.**

Signal Officer-in-Chief's Award (for best all-round tradesman of the term): **A/T A. Speakman.**



DEPARTURE OF THE CHAPLAIN

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay at the College and am sincerely sorry to be leaving". The Reverend Curwen Rawlinson, C.F. who is leaving the College to take up an appointment as Garrison Chaplain of Hamelin with A/T Nicholson and Mackay

As a farewell gift, at choir practice on 1st April, the choir presented the Chaplain with an engraved silver tankard

Colonel Commandant's Award (for the best all-round soldier/tradesman of the term): **A/T Sergeant D. M. Courtenay.**

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: **A/T B. E. Whitton.**

Technician Radio Relay: **A/T A. W. Paines**

Technician Terminal Equipment: **A/T Lance-Corporal P. A. Evans**

Telegraph Operator: **A/T D. G. Naylor**

Trade prizes awarded to the best Apprentice Tradesman of the 9th Term in each trade:

Technician Radio Relay: **A/T A. Speakman**

Technician Terminal Equipment: **A/T C. P. Nelson**

Telegraph Operator: **A/T Lance-Corporal T. S. Mockford**

Special Operator: **A/T A. Teasdale**

Borough of Harrogate prize (for the best essay on local government:

Operator Wing: **A/T S. Garner**

Technician Wing: **A/T Corporal W. H. Todhunter** and **A/T C. Finlay**

REF. JSP 101 CHAP. 7 PARA. 730

Message Centres have the often unenviable task of correcting originators' messages. One of our offenders (a grey-haired gentleman, who will recognise himself) submitted the following in reply to our latest rebuke; it does, of course, indicate we are getting THROUGH.

Quote:

Commcen complains constantly concerning correct courtesy contained communications. Seems signal signals social solecism suspected. Suggested satisfactory solution. For please insert most grateful you. Unquote.

Submitted by Communications Centre, H.Q. British Troops Malta, B.F.P.O. 51.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Commanding 8th Signal Regiment	3	0	0
J. P. Franklyn, Esq.	5	0	0
Louise E. Loughlin	5	0	0
Captain G. B. Symonds, M.B.E.	3	5	0
W.O.I H. L. H. Feber	3	0	0
J. N. K Billett, Esq.	1	10	0
R. N. Houston, Esq.	1	0	0
Major G. A. Stanley, D.C.M.		16	0
R. S. Dorward, Esq.		15	0
Various small individual donations	4	7	0
Total	£27	13	0
Expenditure during March, 1970	£531	19	7

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio shown in manpack role.

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

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The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

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For further information and illustrated literature, please contact The Sales Manager, Defence Unit.

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

Pushed!

"IT can't be time for the next WIRE notes yet?" But, sure enough, we have reached the time when our contributor must get something in the hands of the typists first thing tomorrow to be in the lunch-time post—its nearly midnight too!

Good news

A short but valuable and informative visit from the Officer i/c Records was appreciated. **Colonel Masser's** talk, attended by a large representative audience, was good factual stuff and left us in no doubt about the need to get soldiers qualified. As the Colonel's briefcase contained the results of recent promotion boards it was not surprising that he departed with a heavier briefcase which outlined the familiar shape of a VAT 69 bottle.

Warming thoughts

A recent conference to get summer camp plans under way indicated that it should be an improvement on last year's pilot scheme. From **Lieutenant-Colonel Stonham** downwards it was agreed that the venue should be the same again. That, for information, is a small island in the Mosel river near the village of Treis. What can the attraction be? Watch this space in the September issue.

Officers taxed

The three 'Sabre' Squadrons, as our Household Cavalry Quartermaster, **Captain Alec Ayrton,** chooses to call them, have each given a campaign presentation to the remainder of Regimental Officers as part of our Officer training programme.

1 Squadron drew a number of lessons from the Arakan Campaigns whilst 2 Squadron's light-hearted reminiscences of the Israel 6-Day War gave the audience a vivid picture of this short encounter. 3 Squadron's treatment of events in North-west Europe successfully captured the attention of the audience.

Selected Officers attended the Divisional Study period where events on the German eastern front in the Second World War were studied. This study was again held in the local S.K.C. cinema so the elaborate preparations of the gymnasium in days gone by are a distant memory.

A 'Stonk' (if that is the right collective noun!) of Gunner Officers hit the Regiment for an R.A. communications convention. This proved a very valuable meeting and **Captain Kimber** and **Foreman Cochrane** discussing set installation maintenance and the elevated antenna respectively have earned themselves a lecture tour of the Divisional Gunner Regiments.

'Talons High'

This was C.C.R. Signals annual exercise which is always looked forward to as a good test of communicating. It was certainly that plus a test of survival due to the weather and it certainly won't be forgotten in a hurry.

Comcen Golf's memorable last location, into which sapper Michigan tractors assisted them, soon had the 'golfers' singing what we had previously believed was the M.P.B.W. march 'Mud, mud, glorious mud.' However, the M.P.B.W. did come to the rescue of **Captain 'Duck-board' Dudley** by sending out some doors and planks as 'cat walks.'

There were two long moves which were carried out successfully. The Granger directional V.H.F. antennae which we have on trial proved useful in these particular phases.

Then there was the animosity which we felt had crept in between the Main Division Recce Officer and the Radio Squadron when the Main Radio Village found itself successively on the top of quarry excavations, then in a bog, followed by a dung heap (an enormous one!) and finally in a cemetery. As the radio worked well we are convinced that communicating was uppermost in the Recce Officer's appreciations!

Corporal Mick Parker, in Comhead Oscas' auto 40, made use of his periods in the step-up role by composing crossword puzzles and circulating them via Mufax. Appropriately Signal Operations were adjudged the winners of the first puzzle. There was evidence of **Captain Carson** assisting the technicians and further circulations were somewhat more difficult. Signal Operations remained undefeated champions as they alleged they were too busy to complete any puzzles after the first!

Mention must be made of the line detachments who worked very well under the attrociously wet and muddy conditions throughout this exercise.

Hostages

Second-Lieutenants Bingham and **Bushell** were welcomed with a carefully-planned practical joke which had them flown into the middle of an exercise within half-an-hour of arriving in Herford. However, the last laugh was on the jesters—two of whom (**Lieutenants Burgess** and **Thomas**) dressed as Signalmen, ended the day by being locked in the cells of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards ('Skins') guardroom. As seems to be customary at present, they were held as hostages by the 'Skins' Orderly Officer, the ransom being a few bottles of champagne. When the latter was delivered, a memorable release celebration took place in the Officers' Mess.

Easter break

As far as it is known, the many ambitious plans for Easter were somewhat dampened by the weather. The fast-growing number of car-owning, living-in soldiers makes days out at weekends a popular pastime. We had reports that sailors at the Mohne See raced in a snow storm, although our sailors who were there have not so far owned up to competing! Ski-ing was, perhaps, the most popular Easter pastime of those talented in that direction, as one did not have to journey too far to find skiable slopes.

Some officers went to Rheindahlen to 'hold the hand' of **Captain Jonathon Lowe** (late of this Regiment) on the day he married **Miss Jan Steyr,** to whom we wish a lot of luck and happiness.

Rugger — enthusiasm

The rugby team seem to be making up for their shortened season and intend to leave a mark on the 1970 B.A.O.R. score sheets. Some very good wins have really got the enthusiasm alive, and one of their noteable victories recently was a convincing win over Hameln Rats, who have quite a reputation.

We trust that there will be sufficient of this year's players with us in September to start the '70/'71 season in the same 'blaze of glory.'

Hockey — Oundle Cup

Some keenly-contested matches have again been the feature of this annual competition. It is an inter-Squadron league for a trophy presented by Oundle School. It appears that 3 Squadron are going to run out winners, although at the time of going to press, that is by no means a foregone conclusion.

The Regimental players are hoping to play evening matches during the summer, as they feel the short season, due to the long winter has given them a raw deal. So, if there are any readers with a team which would like summer fixtures, they should contact us.

Promotions and moves

The following Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s were recently informed of forthcoming promotions and appointment changes, and our heartiest congratulations go out to them. **Y. of S. Blakelock** is now acting W.O.I and has been winkled out of the secure area to go to 1 Squadron.; **Sergeant-Major Common** is leaving, on promotion to W.O.I, in the near future, and **Staff Sergeant Driver** has got his job in 2 Squadron; **R.Q.M.S. Bresloff,** too, will soon be changing the badge on his arm; **Sergeant Farrell** becomes a Staff Sergeant, but remains in the families' office to control the ever-increasing work load therein; **Yeoman Ferguson** has successfully cajoled a promotions board into considering him fit to be a W.O.II, and **Staff Sergeant Brudenall** will be assuming the S.Q.M.S. role in 3 Squadron.

Midnight oil

The midnight oil having been burned, it looks as though the typist is going to have a job reading the draft. However, by hook or by crook, we will have something with the Editor in time for publication, or is that tempting a postal strike!

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

Such is the pace of life

NO one showed great surprise at a recent conference when the M.T.O. brought to the C.O.'s attention that there were only nine days available in the month of April to complete all the Central Servicing Stations M.T. programme. Such is the pace of life that we are becoming accustomed to mere snatches of routine life in barracks. Not that we are complaining, what would life be if we were left to find things to occupy our time!

Forgive us if we talk exercise—it's the season and the life has its reportable incidents.

We swung into March with a Regimental exercise, our fourth this year, Exercise 'Carrier Pigeon.' For once we exercised from barracks with just a few relays deployed in the hills. A heavy snow fall immediately prior to the exercise gave us second thoughts about deploying the whole Regiment yet again in a few feet of snow. Exercise 'Tallons High' to follow we could not really risk impaling even more vehicles in Gasthaus walls (shades of Exercise 'Stormy Petrel' when 2 Squadron's access/exit developed into a minor cresta run with, unfortunately, a Gasthaus at the end!).

'Carrier Pigeon' gave us the final preparation required for Exercise 'Tallons High,' by far our biggest exercise this year. Again snow fell in abundance prior to the Regiment taking to the field. With co-operation from our friends, the Sappers, we were just able to get into our locations. Movement and the selection of new sites for both Comcens and Comheads was hindered throughout the exercise by the snow but despite this we felt we coped with our set tasks. It was a very interesting exercise for all concerned and it is felt that everyone came away from it that little bit wiser and more confident in their role. A telegraph exercise gave the operators some hectic hours and provided some valuable lessons and, of course, problems. A minor problem which arose was that of preventing tape getting wet on the ever slushy floor of the T.R.V.s, as it spewed out of the numerous reperforators. Hession floor covering was an immediate aid but not quite the final answer!

Occasionally 4 Squadron feel their feet and clamber into the great unknown all on their own. One recent occasion, Exercise 'Fresh Breeze II." Their report:

Exercise 'Fresh Breeze II'

The exercise was to allow the Staff and Recce Troop alike to familiarise themselves with their roles in Covering Force H.Q. before the start of the long exercise season. Due to the influx of new faces it was a very necessary exercise and the 'Getting to know your spirit' (75% proof) was fostered throughout. Weather-wise 'Fresh Breeze II' was a rather apt name. It was bitterly cold throughout, the depth of snow building up towards the end of the exercise and culminating into a roaring blizzard. We not only had to put up with the weather but the newly numbered R13. During the exercise it lived up to the motto 'Unlucky for some,' shedding the same track twice and getting itself bogged in a ditch when trying to pull someone else out. After much muttering from **Lance-Corporal Haslam** and crew, the number seemed to disappear miraculously from the front and rear of the vehicle overnight. **Lieutenant Paul White,** the Force Recce Officer, had an unenviable task trying to find locations which the headquarters and rebros could get to. **Staff Sergeant Aubrey,** R.E.M.E., of our gallant L.A.D., amazed everyone with his recovery skills, working, it appears, 24 hours a day. He was greeted with applause from the staff at one stage after a brilliant recovery of the afore-mentioned R13. Strangely enough the only time throughout the exercise when there were no mechanical hitches was on the journey back to barracks. Despite the accompanying photographs there is no truth in the rumour that **Corporal 'Octupus' Moore** is giving up the FV 432 in favour of a mobile jerry can!

ITS THE MODERN WAY OF DOING VEHICLE RESEARCH
Signalman 'Apples' Holley and Corporal 'Octupus' Moore of 7th Signal Regiment have an original approach to Ex Fresh Breeze II—and there are no prizes for spotting this type of sledge

And on . . .

The month of April holds in store three exercises and our celebrations of the Corps' 50th Anniversary. It is a good thing Easter came early this year or else we may have found difficulty in fitting it in. As it is B.A.O.R. is celebrating its own separate Whitsun from U.K.! Easter would have shared the same fate I fear and we would have had to alter its date had it fallen in April.

Our celebrations of the Corps' 50th Anniversary are to consist of a Drumhead Service at Bielefeld with the other Signal Regiments of 1 (B.R.) Corps on Sunday, 5th April, and then in conjunction with 4 Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment, two days' fun and games on 15th and 16th April. We are all looking forward to seeing the White Helmets and the Corps Band. We feel we must ask our friends in 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards to come and see our Corps Band. We have called upon the services of their Band so much since they have been in Herford that we have the feeling they do not believe the Corps has a Band of its very own! All fingers are crossed that this year April will not bring its famous showers. The celebrations are giving the Regiment a long-awaited opportunity of returning some of the hospitality afforded us by our affiliated Regiment, the 4th Battalion Troupes de Transmission of the Belgian Army. It has in the past been difficult to fit an engagement into the crowded programmes of the Regiment and the Battalion. However, we can look forward to seeing their Commanding Officer with some of his officers and men on our home ground during our celebration days. The affiliation between the Regiment and our Belgian friends goes back some considerable time, although at the moment no one is absolutely sure how long. If any reader can put a date to the original affiliation we would be most grateful to hear from them. To anyone who has in the past enjoyed the hospitality of 4 Troupes de Transmission we are pleased to report that the affiliation has in the past three years been gathering momentum again after a somewhat quiet period. The Regiment's scribe for THE WIRE notes next month will probably run out of ink giving jottings about our celebrations.

SPORT

Rugby

Prior to our Easter break we were able to squeeze in the Regimental seven-a-side rugger competition, postponed from November when the weather clamped down. It was an enjoyable day for both competitors and spectators alike and aroused great Troop/Squadron spirit. 'Papa' Troop, the reigning champions, just managed to hold 'Tango' Troop of 2 Squadron at bay in the final. The 'professional' rugby players of 5 Squadron were getting very worried at one stage, when it appeared 'Tango' Troop might win; they would never have lived it down if their expert coaching had been to no avail.

Sadly, our hockey side was defeated in the 4th Division final early in March, by the Blues and Royals. We almost ended up not being on speaking terms with our rivals down the road, 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, when we beat them in the semi-final, and it would have been too much for them to bear if we had won the final, which was a very spirited game, and could easily have gone either way; our fate being sealed by a single break-away goal in the last 15 minutes.

We are still in the running in the league, however, being top of the Hameln/Herford League and we have not dropped a point all season. Certainly our hockey standard has gone up this year and we have been able to run two teams. The whole of our second eleven is at first team standard, and we never have trouble filling in. Praise must go to **Major Ron Pepper,** R.A.P.C., for his sterling efforts towards hockey this year. We are pleased to be able to report that **W.O.II 'Digger' Dale** and **C.S.M.I. Pat Heirlehy** have been selected to play for the B.A.O.R. side and that **W.O.II Dale, Sergeant Thorburn, Sergeant Donnithorne** and **Corporal Stephenson** have been selected to represent the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. side.

We have now virtually reached the end of our winter sports competitions and really cannot be anything but pleased with our representative sides' efforts. In rugby we won the 4th Division cup and were in the B.A.O.R. final. Soccer took us to the 4th Division semi-final, and although we have five games yet to play, we are at present at the top of the league. Basketball came to the fore this year, and from being an unknown, we reached the B.A O.R. finals. Time prevented a full play-off of all matches in the B.A.O.R. basketball and we ended up unplaced, although we were raring to play for fifth position. The small bore shooting team gave us fourth place in the B.A.O.R. final—proof that they were not just keeping themselves warm each time they dashed off to the sanctuary of the indoor range! We even managed to gain third place in the 4th Division fencing competition, a fine effort by the small dedicated band of fencers. (I thought I had seen everything until I spotted fencing kit being carried on exercise! It was not a case of being short of small arms—"must take any and every opportunity we may have to practice, sir!"). Although we tried, we had no great success in ski-ing this winter and remain largely 'off the map' as far as this sport is concerned. The problem appears to be in keeping individuals with ski-ing experience, let alone a viable team, from one year to the next! We are now beginning to think of summer sports, although currently it is very difficult to imagine that there will ever be a summer! The only really interested party at the moment seems to be the Sub Aqua Club, but they know they are on a safe wicket in planning their expedition to the South of France!

It is not our normal practice, however . . .

It is not our normal practice to welcome people to the Regiment in our WIRE notes. With so many comings and goings, we could never keep pace. However, one new arrival should have special mention and that is our new Squadron Commander from 'down under,' **Major Don Randall,** Royal Australian Corps of Signals, who will be with us for a year before going to the School of Signals. He has quickly got into the swing of life in the Regiment and is adding his own mark to it—albeit on the Commanding Officer's knee. We are sure 'Soxmis' was baffled for a while by the jungle-hatted figure on exercise! We are very pleased to have **Major Don** and his wife, **Valerie,** with us, and trust that they will enjoy their stay in 7th Signal Regiment as much as we enjoy having them.

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This is Ron Cathcart. 33. Married with five children and, until recently, a telecommunications instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals.

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9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
B.F.P.O. 53

Annual inspection

THE G.O.C., NEARELF, **Major-General M. W. Holmes, CB.E., M.C.,** visited the Regiment on 26th March to carry out our annual inspection. After inspecting the quarter guard, composed of men from several of the different Services and Arms serving in the Regiment, the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** took **General Holme** on a tour of the Regiment. The programme was extremely tight, for nearly every department in the Regiment was visited. The Guard Dog Section was first on the list, which proved to be a cunning piece of psychology; after meeting our five slavering war dogs, only the nicest possible questions were asked.

After the inspection, the General presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.I Mike Dawkins** (Int. Corps), **W.O.II Terry Hammill, Staff Sergeant Fernie, Sergeant 'Pidge' Bullen** and **Corporal Bob Knowles.**

MEN FROM THE DIFFERENT SERVICES AND ARMS OF THE REGIMENT . . .
provided a very smart quarter-guard during the visit to 9th Signal Regiment of the G.O.C. NEARELF Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C. Major-General M. W. Holme is talking to J/T Don Fraser, an R.A.F. member of the quarter-guard

M.P.C. Course

The latest MPT course took place between 4th-25th March. Men from Royal Signals Units all over the island and, indeed, some from the Gulf as well, came to learn a few more basic military skills. The three-day infantry exercise provided a welcome break from the weapon training centre and drill square and seemed to be enjoyed by all present. The exercise took place near the village of Mandres, in the Kantara mountains. Map-reading, both by day and night, infantry tactics and a roped assault course formed the main part of the exercise, topped up by a night in the local 'boozer,' where, for 15s. each, the course got a fair helping of Kebabbed lamb and as much beer and brandy as they could drink (and, in some cases, more).

Mercury Theatre

The Mercury Theatre Group's entry for the B.F.N.E. and Gulf Drama Festival took place from 26th to 28th March. This year's play, 'Wait until Dark,' was a departure from the normal light comedy produced by the group; it was a 'who-dunnit,' and superbly 'dun' at that. The cast played to a packed house every night. Star of the show was **Mrs. Mary Bonaker,** wife of our Adjutant, who played the very difficult role of a blind woman magnificently. Our Dental Officer, **Major Bob Deacon,** made his last appearance on stage for the group as he is leaving the island soon. **Flight-Lieutenant David Wood** and **Corporal Sarn Sexton,** two of the 'light blue jobs' attached to the Regiment, played major parts, and **Mrs. Pat Chandler** and **Mr. John Nash** completed the supporting cast. The play ended with a breathtaking last act, the stage management of which was extremely clever.

WEIGHING UP THAT NEW PAY RISE IN CYPRUS
One of the "Infantry sections" takes time out on the M.P.T. course exercise to consider the new pay scheme details which arrived while they were up in the mountains. The batchelors are easily recognizable—they're the ones with the smug expressions.
Back: Lance-Corporal Frank Hall (261 Signal Squadron) and Lance-Corporal Bert Wright (255 Signal Squadron). *Front:* Lance-Corporal Bob Welsh, R.P.C. (9th Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Jeff Evans (259 Signal Squadron), Lance-Corporal Dave Cook (9th Signal Regiment) and Signalman 'Taff' Evans (9th Signal Regiment)

Exercise

Every now and then we get hauled out of our offices and are told to don combat dress, pick a rifle, get a hair-cut and look fierce. We were somewhat alarmed to discover that our 'enemy' for this exercise was to be a Company of 3 Para and a couple of sections of the R.A.F. Regiment. Nevertheless, we hopped into our guard posts and trenches and for two days fought off the enemy with an undreamed-of success. We even managed to capture the Flight-Lieutenant in charge of the R.A.F. Regiment element. He then had the cheek to claim that he gave himself up in order to organise transport back to Akrotiri for his men!

1 Squadron Football

After a very hard-pressed season, with the team hit by injury, game after game, 1 Squadron's football team won the Army Minor Units Challege Cup. The final was played at Dhekelia on 4th April, against 'A' Squadron, 17th/21st Lancers. The day was hot and the pitch dry. The play was fast, and the superior skill of the 1 Squadron payers showed through and, although the Lancers' team were perhaps the more coherent, the final score of 4—2 was well justified. The outstanding player of the match was **Corporal Dave Kelly,** whose three goals assured the Squadron of the cup, which was presented after the match by **Brigadier R. C. Windsor Clive,** Commander, Dhekelia Area.

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11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Personal happenings

Lieutenant 'Jenny' Baker, W.R.A.C., our Assistant Adjutant, achieved fame as a model. Public Relations gave her a day's holiday in Scotland where, on a suitable slope, she posed on skis for Women's Royal Army Corps recruiting photographs.

We welcome to the Regiment **Majors E. F. Carrel** (O.C. H.Q. Squadron) and **M. O. N. Bird** (O.C. 2 Squadron), **Captain R. F. Wilford** (Personnel Selection Officer) and **Lieutenant A. T. B. Kimber** (O.C. 1 Troop).

Regrettably we say farewell to **W.O.II J. Frost,** who has moved across the back to 8th Regiment, and **W.O.II R. MacGregor** who has been posted to 222 Signal Squadron in Sharjah. Our best wishes are extended to both Warrant Officers who have served the Regiment well.

Before he left Catterick, **Brigadier F. L. Clarkson, M.B.E.,** was the guest of honour in the Sergeants' Mess. At the end of the evening, when he was leaving, he presented the R.S.M. and members of the Mess with a barrel of beer which he produced from the boot of his car! Fortunately the Mess does not stock breathalysers.

Finally, congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Rodgers,** of 3 Troop, and his wife **Kathleen,** on the occasion of their marriage.

Pass-off parades

The Inspecting Officer at the parade on 6th March was **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** Commander Training Brigade, Royal Signals. The Best Recruits were **Signalman B. H. Standen (3 Troop)** and **Signalman P. L. Galpin** (6 Troop).

Before enlisting at the age of 27, **Signalman Standen** had been working in industry. His maturity stood him in good stead in the Troop and he produced very creditable results.

Signalman B. H. Standen

Signalman P. L. Galpin

Signalman J. Turnbull

Signalman D. L. Cardwell

Signalman Galpin passed six 'O' levels at his school in Suffolk. He came to live in Darlington on leaving school less than a year ago. He had been considering the Army as a career for several years but decided to try a civilian job first. Though interested in electronics, he became a trainee manager for Woolworths and remained with them until the end of the year, when he enlisted.

Before coming into the Army he sailed with the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. His other hobbies include rugby and camping. On his return from leave he joined O.R. 1 Troop where he is taking the first steps towards gaining a commission.

On 20th March the Garrison Commander, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Parks,** Royal Tank Regiment, was the Inspecting Officer. He presented Best Recruit prizes to **Signalman J. Turnbull** (2 Troop) and **Signalman D. L. Cardwell** (7 Troop).

Signalman Turnbull comes from Sunderland and was a mining apprentice. He is now undergoing training as a technician at 8th Signal Regiment.

Signalman Cardwell is a keen sportsman and like many of his fellow Irishmen he is an enthusiastic and competent rugger player. Consequently he quickly earned a place in the Regimental XV. He has started his trade training as a Radio Operator.

Satisfied recruit scheme

Towards the end of their training recruits from each Troop are encouraged to volunteer for a week's attachment to the Army Careers and Information Office where they were enlisted. The object is that they should work with the staff of the A.C.I.O. visiting clubs and schools discussing life in the Army with their contemporaries. Those who volunteer undergo a careful screening conducted by **Captain Roy Simmons, B.E.M.,** who is O.C. Continuation Training Troop. Despite the hard work those selected find that they are more than compensated by the extra week at home. Experience shows that this scheme is a valuable aid to recruiting. Some idea of its success may be gained from the results of **Signalman D. Babington,** who was attached recently to the A.C.I.O. at Broadstairs. He encouraged five of his contemporaries to go along to the office to enquire about a career in the Army.

Visits

On 16th and 20th March we were visited by students from Ramsden Technical College. Apart from watching the recruits in training, the programme enabled them to test their prowess on the .22 range and in the gymnasium. **WO.II (C.S.M.I.) Norris** and his instructors were amazed at the skill displayed by several of the students until they learnt that some were county junior champions!

The College authorities had arranged the trip as part of a general studies course which enables students to see activities and ways of life other than their own.

R.S.M.s' Convention 1970

A full report of the Convention is to be made in the Training Brigade notes. 11th Signal Regiment were hosts to the R.S.M.s, who toured the barracks and then met recruits in the cinema for an exchange of views.

The following night all the R.S.M.s dined in at the Sergeants' Mess in the presence of the Brigade Commander and the Commanding Officers. The Corps Band was in very good form and their presence ensured an entertaining evening. **W.O.I McDermott,** of the Royal Marines, presented the R.S.M. with a plaque in memory of the occasion.

A REPORT ON EXERCISE 'SNOWQUEEN'

By Signalman R. Robb

The kind invitation of the Commanding Officer of 2nd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment was the reason why I found myself with eight members of O.R.1 and Continuation Training Troops on Darlington railway station early on a cold Sunday morning in February. We were starting our long journey to South West Bavaria where we were going to stay in the little village of Wertach for Exercise 'Snowqueen,' which lasts for a fortnight. We were told that the aim was to teach the art of downhill ski-ing.

During the first few days, as we crashed and tumbled our way down the slopes, the local Bavarians made themselves hoarse shouting "Vorsicht Englander!" At this stage we learnt some German words: Stummkopf! was one of the more polite exclamations.

Despite the language barrier, several broken skis and sticks, and aching limbs, we made good progress. At the end of our fortnight, which passed very quickly, we considered ourselves competent skiers. Some members of our party demonstrated their competence by using a hop, skip and double somersault as a method of stopping—though this sequence was not taught, it was effective.

The weather remained good during our stay. This enabled us to make full use of the excellent facilities and enjoy the beauty of the area.

All too soon this interesting and exciting visit came to an end. Our enjoyment resulted from the kindness of our hosts and the patience of our instructors. The visit made a very pleasant interlude between the end of basic training and the hard work of O.R.1 and Continuation Training Troop. Like all members of the party I would have liked to stay longer.

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

Regimental 'At Homes'

DURING the next two months we plan to hold a Regimental 'At Home' on 22nd April and a Regimental weekend from 22nd to 26th May.

On 22nd April we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Corps and are delighted to have the Royal Signals Band and White Helmets with us. Also for this occasion, we have been lucky enough to arrange a helicopter display by 131 Aviation Flight, a gymnastic display by the Army Physical Training Corps, and a police dog display by the Royal Air Force, in addition to large numbers of sideshows and stalls being prepared by members of the Regiment.

22nd April promises to be a most enjoyable day for us and our many local German and Dutch neighbours.

During Whitsun we have invited parents, wives, girlfriends and friends to join us from 22nd to 26th May. This is the occasion of our Regimental athletic meeting, and an excellent opportunity to entertain those who are able to join us and see a little of Germany and Holland.

Local knowledge

Our local 'get to know the area' visits to factories, coalmines, etc., are proving most interesting, and an excellent insight into the lives of the 'other half.' It is worth recording something of our visits to the Sophia-Jacoba coalmine, about eight kilometres from our camp. A number of soldiers have now visited this mine, and all returned slightly bruised, exhausted and somewhat shop-soiled and clinging in hope to the chance remark of a senior officer that anybody who visits the Sophia-Jacoba coalmine should be excused his battle efficiency tests!

On arrival, we were given an excellent briefing on the mine, sufficient to say that it is reported to be the most modern in Europe, covers an area of 80 acres, employs 4,269 persons and has a daily output of 7,500 tons. Our preparation for our 'descent' was efficient, to say the least, we were guided to extremely well-equipped cubicles, containing complete sets of miner's clothing, a bath and sink.

With some help, we all soon emerged in full kit, helmets, lamps and, oh my gosh, carbon monoxide respirators, and were ready for our descent—at the rate of 38 feet per second. A pleasant surprise to find that we arrived in a rather nice spacious area—"what's so difficult about this then"—but we were soon whisked off to negotiate a 600ft. tunnel, which I am convinced was less than 3ft. high, whatever the guide said. Once we were in the area where the real coal is produced, it is most interesting to see the excavation methods, the trucks, conveyor belts, close circuit television, etc., and, in particular, to see the hard conditions under which the miner works, in the knowledge, too, of their daily journey to and from work through that tiny tunnel, which we were now required to face again.

We were soon back on the surface, and what a delightful surprise, a hot bath and own clothes again, followed by schnapps, brandy, beer and lemonade.

Adventure Training

Our Exercise 'Enterprise I,' the series of adventure and initiative training exercises we held last year, is now about to start again. 'Enterprise II,' which will consist of a series of exercises, each commanded by a Staff Sergeant or Sergeant and consisting of two or three soldiers, is on the way.

Our first two exercises are 'Swiss Trout,' commanded by **Sergeant A. E. Buttery,** who plans to examine the training methods of the Swiss Alpine Corps, and 'Play Fact,' commanded by **Sergeant M. T. O. Lumb,** who aims to discover the history of the Passion Play held at Oberammergau.

'Enterprise II' will continue until August or September, by which time some 55 Senior N.C.O.s and 150 soldiers will have done something, somewhere!

Ski Training

Our last course has now returned from Bavaria after an instructive, hard, but most enjoyable time. They were soon followed by our ski instructor, **Lieutenant Colin Riley,** after an absence of three months. During this time he has introduced at least eighty soldiers to the art of ski-ing, all of whom have enjoyed this opportunity and woud love to go again. Our plans for the 1970/71 season will soon be made. We aim to ski at Bayrischzell again and use the excellent facilities offered by the owner of the farmhouse, **Frau Huber,** who, throughout the season, has been very kind and helpful.

Canoe Club

The members of our newly-formed Canoe Club are enthusiastic, to say the least. One member, **Corporal Reg Austin,** is an experienced canoeist; his interest and expertise, and the enthusiasm and organising ability of **Staff Sergeant Jim Goodridge,** the club has been given an excellent start.

The first meeting was held at Swalm, on the River Maas, in Holland, and an ideal site to establish a summer hut for the canoes and equipment. In spite of appalling weather we are still getting in Germany, Easter being the time for this kind of activity, we were soon under way under the watchful eye of **Staff Sergeant Goodridge** and **Corporal Austin.** After a short burst of enthusiasm, **Signalman Roger Kemp** stepped out of a 'very wet river' to continue his instruction on the bank, while **Mrs. E. Cant,** wife of **Corporal P. J. Cant,** our only lady member so far, remained dry, but her canoe 'just refused to go upstream"!

A most enjoyable day, which ended with large quantities of tea, suitably laced in true nautical fashion.

An excellent start, but "the warmer weather cannot come soon enough," says **Signalman Kemp.**

Inter-Troop Sports Competition

During the past few weeks, our Inter-Troop Sports Competition has been played with the usual rivalry. This competition consists of four games—basketball, shinty, volleyball and five-a-side soccer.

We are now approaching the finals, which are due to be played off on 19th April, and is as good a day as any to start our next event. This time a 'Crazy Games Contest.' More of this later.

Basketball

Our basketball team still maintains their excellent record after winning the Rhine Area Knockout Championships. Our sights are now set on winning the Rhine Area League. At the time of writing, we are leading, having scored 26 points in 17 games, a total of 12 points ahead of our nearest rivals.

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Visit of the Chief of Staff

MAJOR-GENERAL P. R. C. Hobart, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Chief of Staff, Headquarters Army Strategic Command, paid his first visit to the Regiment on Wednesday, 25th March.

Descending upon us (literally) by helicopter at 11 a.m. he spent a very busy day seeing all aspects of the Regiment and chatting to everyone he met. He was particularly pleased to use our 'space age' equipment and speak to Cyprus via TSC 500 and the Skynet satellite.

Before his departure **General Hobart** commented, "Of all the Signal Regiments that I have seen the 14th shows most of all the advances that have been made in modern communications during the last few years. I am very impressed."

VISIT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF, H.Q. ARMY STRATEGIC COMMAND

O.C. 2 Squadron, Major R. A. F. Reynolds expounds to Commander 1 Signal Group, Colonel E. J. Winn. Amused and interested listeners are the Chief of Staff, Major-General P. R. C. Hobart, C.B., O.B.E., M.C. and the C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker

Exercise 'Talons High'

2 Squadron, the E21 Squadron, broke new ground during Exercise 'Talons High' in B.A.O.R. Travelling by civilian ferry the five-ton cabins and equipments were hauled by slow stages from Worcester to the Sennelager Training Area. In deep, crisp snow the transmitters and receiver sites were established a mile apart, the 80ft. antennas were set up, the lightweight 30 KVA generators were started and the all-important battle against the cold was begun.

It wasn't long before communications to Boddington were solid and all we needed was a good supply of green pencils to complete the communications synopsis! At one busy moment **Sergeant Perrin** gained instant fame by phoning, he thought, the transmitter site and curtly ordered QSY F2 (change frequency). **Private Eley,** A.C.C., in the cookhouse area, an accommodating chap, agreed, replaced the phone and returned to his steaks. Fortunately the alert transmitter crew noticed the loss of keying tone and redeemed the situation.

We are proud to think that for the first time any telephone in a cold field in Germany could be connected by radio to any telephone in the United Kingdom. Wasted, however, on one little girl there who answered the telephone. Replying to the call sign and request to "Fetch Sunray," she simply said, "Daddy's gone shopping."

Decisions (or how one was reached in 14th Signal Regiment)

The time is 9 a.m. on a wet spring morning. Picture a bed in a soldiers' barrack room. Anxiously clustered around it are four Squadron Commanders, one independent Troop Commander, the Q.M., R.Q.M.S., a Troop Staff Sergeant and one lone Troop Sergeant.

On the bed, flat on his back, lies a limp figure, recognisable as the Second-in-Command. Slowly he raises his right arm, feeling for something on the book-shelf above his head. There is a breathless hush as his fingers touch the shelf, an explosion of expelled air as the defeated hand falls back empty.

A hubbub of consultation breaks out. Then the figure on the bed, suddenly galvanised into action, makes the pronouncement:

"Obviously a soldier, lying in bed, cannot get a book off his book-shelf without raising at least one shoulder. Lower the shelf six inches."

A decision has been made. Ten key staff walk off with squared shoulders conscious that they have certainly earned their pay this day.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

MARCH has been a busy month in the work and sporting fields, and has found the Regiment much involved in the usual preparations for the big events due this coming summer.

249 Squadron have sent detachments up the east coast of Malaysia to Dungun to prove radio relay paths and re-broadcast sites prior to the five national exercise, 'Bersatu Padu,' which will take place later this year. **Captain Peter Burke** and members of 'Bravo' Troop are again on their travels, and are currently in the Solomon Islands. We hope to include a report next month on their visit to those sun-drenched Pacific Islands.

Assault Course Competition

On 3rd March, the first leg of the Champion Squadron Competition was held, in the shape of a rugged test of endurance, ingenuity and shooting skill. Teams from each Squadron carried large and heavy logs over a difficult and somewhat wet assault course, ending up with a test of marksmanship. Anyone who has attempted this sort of exercise and then fired an SMG with his respirator on will appreciate the difficulties! It was evident that all teams had put in a lot of hard work and practice, and **Sergeant Musa, Corporal Fernandez** and **Corporal Mohd. Noor, Corporal Boulby, Lance-Corporal Omar, Lance-Corporal Ismail, Lance-Corporal Ramanathan, Lance-Corporal Sooria** and **Signalman Harwood,** and team captain, **Captain B. Robinson,** of H.Q. Squadron, are to be congratulated as the eventual winners.

Road Walking

The Singapore District Road Walking Championships were held this month, and the Regiment succeeded in scoring another victory and cup. **Lieutenant David Gardiner** is to be congratulated on winning the individual championship for the second year in succession.

Basketball

Our basketball team, having won the Singapore District Knockout Cup, flew to Hong Kong for the FARELF Championships against 6th Gurkha Rifles. Unfortunately, our opponents proved to be a very experienced team and, although we took the lead early, we were not able to hold the opposition, who finally won 68—34. The team as a whole played very well, under the captaincy of **Lance-Corporal Bell.**

Football

Despite the loss of such well-known Regimental football stars as **Corporals Gallagher, Lockwood, McBurney** and **Lance-Corporal Million,** we have got off to a good start to the new season, winning three of our first four Singapore District League matches. The Regimental Football Officer, **Major Terry Canham,** has high hopes of repeating and improving upon our successes of last season.

Report from Australia

Our new man in Australia, **Lieutenant John Young,** has sent in the following report:

"I arrived after a hectic journey which took three days. None of the indulgence passengers were allowed to fly from Changi, for there were 13 seats short on the Hercules. An overnight stop was arranged in Djarkarta and I was booked in the Hotel Indonesia—this being on a par with the Hotel Malaysia in Singapore.

The following day the New Zealand Defence Minister and his Chief of Staff joined the aircraft, so a guard of honour and band gave us a good send-off. The next leg, to Canberra, took 10½ hours, and there we spent the night in a motel. Finally, a little more comfort was arranged for the final leg to Melbourne, which was by civilian aircraft. The Mess at McLeod is an area mess and there is no batting service, so I have to do my own laundry, which is an eye opener. The mess members are a friendly crowd who have gone out of their way to make me welcome.

Finally, I have taken over the largest Troop in 2nd Signal Regiment of about 70 men and a mountain of unfamiliar equipment. One of my Sergeants is an ex-Royal Signals Warrant Officers, so we understand each other very well."

Further reports from Australia will be included in later issues.

Stop Press

Our detachment in the Solomon Islands returned to Singapore today. A full report will appear in our next notes, with photographs.

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

Regimental 50th Anniversary Celebrations

FOR the Regiment, the celebrations were slightly more exciting as the Regiment has now completed a decade of service to the town of Lippstadt here in West Germany. To mark the occasion, we had for the first time in Corps history both the Corps Band and the Corps Motor Cycle Display Team performing together, as indeed they will be doing throughout their tour of B.A.O.R. and Berlin. The celebration started with a band concert in Lippstadt, before which the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. W. Cooper,** presented on behalf of the Regiment a silver tray to the Burgermeister, the inscription reading:

Presented to the Stadt Lippstadt
on the occasion of the
50th Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals
and the
10th Anniversary of 22nd Signal Regiment
in Lippstadt
1st April 1970.

The following day the Corps Band and Motor Cycle Display Team gave a combined display for the people of Lippstadt and the Regiment. Again probably for the first time in Corps history the performance started and ended in a very heavy snow storm.

In the evening, the Corps Band provided music for celebrations in both the Officers' and N.C.O.s' Messes. Our thanks are extended to **Captains Boulding** and **Rowe,** of the Band and Display Team respectively, for making the occasion so memorable.

PRESENTATION
Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. W. Cooper, Commanding Officer, 22nd Signal Regiment, presents a silver tray to the Burgemeister of the town of Lippstadt to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Corps and the 10th Anniversary of 22nd Signal Regiment in Lippstadt

Regimental events

The Regiment has been so heavily committed on exercises that the Lippstadt Players, our Amateur Dramatic Group, found it necessary to select a cast comprised entirely of the fair sex for its latest production 'The Widows Mite.' This production was entered for the B.A.O.R. Amateur Dramatic Competition, coming seventh in the overall adjudication.

In the B.A.O.R. Judo Championships, the Regimental team came third and here we must mention **Second-Lieutenant Howshall** who has been invited to fight for the B.A.O.R. Judo Team and also in the Army Judo Finals this month.

Sailing has got off to a fairly good start on the Mohne See and shortly we send off eight men on two courses to the British Kiel Yacht Club. It is hoped that an improvement in the weather will give a boost to Regimental sailing.

Farewell

Our Paymaster, **Major 'Binks' Williams,** is leaving the Regiment and the Army in May. **Binks** has been in or around Signals since he joined the Pay Corps from the Tanks in 1960. All here are sorry to see him leave and we wish him all the best of luck in his retirement.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

Fran

LEARNING the jargon of any unit is one of the first chores of all new arrivals. When that unit is a unique N.A.T.O. formation further complications can be expected. Perhaps, therefore, one should not be too surprised to be told that a 'Frandangle' must be purchased from the P.R.I. and worn on the left breast. All becomes clear when it is explained that this somewhat irreverent term refers to the Franciscan Axe (as used by the Franks in the 6th century) which is the insignia of Northern Army Group. Hence Francisca Barracks. Unfortunately this explanation invalidates the living-in officers' claim to be The Monks, but it's a nice thought. Over the years, it has become a custom to prefix many Regimental activities with the prefix Fran and so here are a few recent Frans.

Franski 1970

This is an adventure training exercise run for us by a German Signal Battalion, Gebirgsfernmeldebataillon 8, in Murnau. The exercise lasts for six weeks and is in three parts; on each part we send about 20 all ranks who are taught how to ski. That is, an attempt to teach them how to ski is made.

It is an enjoyable exercise and if no success is achieved on the ski-ing slopes then the social side is still open.

Fransystem

This is an exercise held in barracks to practise system engineering and operating procedures. The recent Fransystem was attended by detachments from the Belgian, British, German and Netherlands Corps. The German and French language will never be quite the same again. Nor will the specialist catering

THE BRIGADIER LEARNS
Signalman Burnett explains the intricacies of cable jointing to Brigadier Crook

officer, **Captain Tony Hope,** who is still knee deep in 1680s attempting to recover rations.

The annual administrative inspection coincided with this exercise and the Commander Rhine Area, **Brigadier P. E. Crook, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.A.,** was the inspecting officer. He took the opportunity to speak to many men both on the exercise and in stores and offices. The installation of all communication vehicles is designed and manufactured within the Regiment and the Brigadier expressed his surprise at the complexity and high standard of workmanship. He appeared well satisfied with all he saw and we hope the national detachments will forgive us for landing them an extra 'admin.'

Frantactic

Basically this is a deployment exercise with the emphasis on tactics rather than communications. A recent exercise produced a fund of memorable remarks. Quite unprintable were those heard during a gas attack, by **Signalman Phil Stickland** who had been dekitted of his respirator prior to posting after the exercise. Another remark stems from the fact that we now have eleven Foremen of Signals (this must be a record). A long-suffering technician in C.C.C., sensing an ally in the form of **Captain Mike Vann,** a visiting D.S., invited him to "drag up a Foreman and sit down."

Fran sport

A hard winter has disrupted many fixture lists but mention must be made of the soccer team who achieved the following results in the Army Cup:

v. 23rd Regiment R.C.T. — won 2—1 (away).
v. 13th Signal Regiment — won 2—1 (away).
v. 45th Medium Regiment, R.A. — won 3—0 (home).
v. 16th Signal Regiment (Rhine area final) — won 4—0 (away).
v. 32nd Engineer Regiment (B.A.O.R. semi-final) — lost 3—4 (away).

The B.A.O.R. semi-final was a great disappointment to the team who were leading 3—1 with only 20 minutes to play. 32nd Engineer Regiment went on to win the B.A.O.R. final against 10th Regiment, R.C.T., after again being 1—3 down at half-time. Our congratulations to a team who always played hard. Particular mention must be made of **Corporal Arthur Sutherland,** our centre-half who is captain of the B.A.O.R. XI, and **Signalman Tom Reilly,** our goalkeeper who also plays for B.A.O.R.

Stop Press. The team has just beaten R.A.F. Bruggen 2—1 who are currently top of the league.

Fran Wives' Club

The Wives' Club have flourished since Christmas and have managed to visit a silk-manufacturing factory and hold a dinner night in addition to their usual meetings. The visit to the silk factory was nearly a non-starter owing to the absence of booked transport; however, the R.M.T.O., **Captain John Dean,** stepped in and produced Regimental transport. The dinner night was held in the Sergeants' Mess and was most successful. Thanks must go to the Regimental catering staff for a most excellent meal. When it was due to close several wives are reported as saying, "My husband does not come back till 2 a.m. after a dinner night so I'm not leaving now at 11 p.m."

Arrivals and departures

Having welcomed the new Second-in-Command, **Major Sandy Le Gassick,** and his wife **Steve** in the last issue of THE WIRE we now say farewell. After only four months with the Regiment promotion takes him to Scotland (of course, it's only coincidence that they own a house in Aberdeenshire). We also bid farewell to **Major Eric and Jean Carrel; Lieutenant Stuart Moralee** (but wedding bells will bring him back briefly in July).

Welcome to **Major Frank Philp, Captain Michael Vann, Lieutenant Mike Martin Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** and **Lieutenant Don Hellings,** R.P.C. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess lose **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ray Keeler, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Bill Wall, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Jim Briggs** and **Sergeant Bill Tempest.** New arrivals are **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Tony Jones, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Tony Whydell, Staff Sergeant Brian Ellis, Sergeant Sandy Shaw** and **Sergeant John Richards.**

Sergeants' Mess

At the end of March the Mess visited 13th Signal Regiment for a games night. Although the teams were evenly matched, the strength of the fighting 28th Mess proved too much for the members of 13th and we came through the battle clear winners by two points, plus one 50pfg. Jackpot dropped by **W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Mike Berriman.** A very fine trophy was presented to us by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Eric Filder;** this now takes pride of place amongst our silver collection. All are now looking forward to the return match on 1st May.

A total of 120 members and ladies enjoyed an excellent dinner and dance on 28th February. As usual the catering, under the direction of **W.O.II Joe Oytaben** and **Sergeant Jim Hodgins,** was of the highest possible standard. On this occasion we dined out our Second-in-Command, **Major Sandy Le Gassick,** and **Major Eric Carrel,** our Supervising Officer. On completion of the dinner, dancing to the excellent band of the 3rd Carbineers Prince of Wales' Own Dragoon Guards went on to the small hours of the morning. The complete evening was an outstanding success, so much so that **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Frank Cokayne,** at the unearthly hour of 3 a.m., stated that during his three years in the Mess it had been the best night he had ever had there.

Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) (Skinhead) Jimmy Mancais decided on Exercise 'Frantactic' that life was very quiet; he therefore held his own fire practice in the Squadron Store tent, the end result being that 1 Squadron are now short of one German frame tent. Help! There is no truth in the rumour that **Staff Sergeant Mancais** is an agent for the local assurance agent.

During the last eleven months the Mess interior has been in a turmoil, an extension being built, doors bricked in, walls papered and false roof installed. The result is that the Sergeants' Mess of 28th Signal Regiment is looking as a Sergeants' Mess should do and not as it was eleven months ago.

On 18th April a grand opening ball is being held to mark the completion; the highlights of the evening will be reported in the next issue of 28th Signal Regiment notes.

Our congratulations go to the following on their recent promotions to Sergeant within the Regiment: **Sergeant Ken Underwood, Sergeant Gordon Brogan, Sergeant John Wales,** R.E.M.E., **Sergeant Mike Mepstead,** R.E.M.E.

Specialist Teleprinter Operators

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Initially, the operators will be employed upon teleprinting and associated procedures, but they will be given the opportunity of training for higher grade duties when the Communications Centre becomes fully automatic in the middle of 1971.

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Basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, will be £18.19.6. per week rising to £22.10.0. per week, inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime which, on average, attracts a further £8 to £10 per week. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1,500 per annum basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British nationality, telephone 01-930 7022 extn. 5964/5, or write to:

CIVILIAN CAREERS ADVISER (T.W.)

Ministy of Defence, Room 021, Old War Office Building, Whitehall, S.W.1

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

The rovers return

BACK from a highly successful Arctic exercise, A.M.F.(L.) Force Radio Troop and A.M.F.(L.) Battalion Signal Troop now amalgamate to form 3 Squadron, under the command of **Captain Ian Crouch.** They return from Norway with tales of Italian cooking, Canadian arctic clothing and American humour, but all seem to have enjoyed the experience despite the cold weather and the hard work involved.

REPORT FROM NORWAY
Lance-Corporal Mike Hunt tells Brigadier Proudman of his impression of Norway. Looking on is Lieutenant Jeremy Miller

Also returning at last, from the sun of Libya, comes the comcen detachment under **Corporal Jones** who have been involved in the final withdrawal of British troops from North Africa. With them on the L.S.L. *Sir Geraint* were the radio detachment of **Corporal Adcock, Lance-Corporal Simpson** and **Signalman Desborough** who, they tell us, have been helping with more than communications during their stay on board.

Notable among this month's departures is the detachment for Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' in Malaysia. **Sergeant Griffiths, Corporals Pipes, Abraham** and **Ryder** and **Signalman Walker** and **Turner** departed for the sun on 6th April. They were preceded by **Lance-Corporal Jack** and **Signalman Sharp,** who left as reinforcements for 14th Signal Regiment a week earlier.

The champions

With the return of 3 Squadron came the winner of the Royal Signals Individual Ski-ing Championships, **Sergeant John West,** who for the third year running won the Giant Slalom at Aviemore in Scotland on 14th March.

Keeping up the good work also is **Lance-Corporal Geoff Cutts** who added to his string of trophies by winning the Combined Services' Boxing Championship on 16th March at Aldershot. He now goes on to represent the Combined Services against Wales on 9th April.

Our congratulations go to both **Sergeant West** and **Lance-Corporal Cutts** for their fine achievements.

Visit of C.S.O.

On 23rd March, **Brigadier G. Proudman,** the Chief Signal Officer, Army Strategic Command, and **Major R. Plant** visited the Regiment for the annual fitness for role inspection. Fortunately the weather stayed fairly bright as the Brigadier visited the new 3 Squadron who were set out as the A.M.F.(L.) headquarters employed during Exercise 'Arctic Express.' **Sergeant Douglas Price** and the cooks of Headquarter Squadron displayed their talents at cooking the dinner in the field and provided a very welcome cup of coffee for the inspecting party before they went on to see 2 Squadron training on the assault course and rifle range. 4 Squadron gave a demonstration of air-portability and 1 Squadron showed the various ways in which their Radio and Comcen Operators are deployed, including a rear link CW circuit working over 5,000 miles to 633 Signal Troop (Caribbean), located outside Belize City, British Honduras. A competition for the best C42/C11 rear link detachment was won by **Corporal Work.**

After lunch 1 Squadron was despatched on a P.E. test followed by a visit by the Brigadier to the guardroom, armoury, light aid detachment, R.E.M.E., and the unit pay office. The inspecting officer watched 1 Squadron returning from their 'ten mile bash' before a drive past of the entire Regiment rounded off the day.

DRIVE PAST
3 Squadron Landrovers with pennants flying made an impressive drive past during Brigadier Proudman's inspection

The victorious few

Just in from 644 Signal Troop in Cyprus is the report that their six-a-side hockey team has won the UNFICYP knockout cup. The team, consisting of **Lieutenant Jack Fiskel, Sergeant Copeman** (the captain), **Corporal Bryan, Lance-Corporal Don Taylor, Signalmen Gibson, Marchant** and **Jewell,** beat 65 Squadron, R.C.T., with a crushing six goals to four, with **Lance-Corporal Taylor** scoring three of the goals.

Arrivals and departures

We say a sad goodbye this month to **Sergeant-Major John Haydon** who has been with 1 Squadron for a year. He leaves us for 24 Infantry Brigade Headquarter and Signal Squadron in Plymouth. **Sergeant-Major Ray Keeler,** who has returned from 28th Signal Regiment, takes over as Squadron Sergeant-Major and we hope he will enjoy his tour with us.

We had a fleeting glimpse of the elusive **Lieutenant Chris Greig,** who appeared from Northern Ireland for approximately two days before disappearing again. We understand he was last seen heading for Bahrein.

Alderney

The Regiment is looking forward to its share of the sun when Headquarter, 1 and 2 Squadron, depart by L.S.L. from Marchwood on 2nd May. We will be staying for what is hoped to be three sundrenched weeks on the island of Alderney taking part in various training activities at Fort Tourgis.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS

Reports from the Outposts

Last hours in Libya

☆

Men of 'Bravo' Troop, 14th Regiment cover communications for the final withdrawal of British Forces from Libya.

ONE OF THE LAST OF MANY

Corporal Allan Maxwell of 14th Signal Regiment boards L.S.L. Sir Geraint at Tobruk as the final party leaves Libya

ON 6th February, a D13 detachment of 'Bravo' Troop set sail, in the LSL *Sir Tristram*, for Tobruk to cover the communications for the final withdrawal from Libya of the British forces there. On 13th February, the detachment was joined in Libya by the Detachment Commander, **Captain Tim Hallchurch,** and the remainder of the men, including five commcen operators from 30th Signal Regiment—**Cpl. 'Pete' Jones, Lance-Corporal 'Eroll' Flynn, Lance-Corporal Jim Lander, Signalman Tony Sygrove** and **Signalman 'Jock' Ogilvie.**

After coping with a few gremlins and interference problems, the detachment soon showed that a mobile station could do the job of a static DCN station just as well as the R.A.F., despite the lack of ED & C and other luxuries.

Good relations with R.A.F.

Before long the operators got to know their R.A.F. counterparts in the commcen and other departments, and a very friendly relationship grew up between our detachment and communications flight, R.A.F., El Adem. **Corporal 'Dinger' Bell, Lance-Corporal Ray Dudding** and **Lance-Corporal Eric Pickering,** from the detachment down at transmitters, were soon getting together the R.A.F.'s surplus and not-so-surplus spares, before **Sergeant 'Pyro' Price,** R.A.F., did the burning. Thanks to **Corporal Ken Naylor,** R.A.F., our lineman and antennae rigger, **Corporal Ken Cowsill,** won't be short of stores for a long time.

The off-duty time at El Adem was spent in the N.A.A.F.I. and cinema and N.A.A.F.I. and cinema, and so on, until both closed, but there still seemed no shortage of beer around the place. On the odd day, when the weather was warm enough, some managed to get down to the beach, and some even ventured into the cold Mediterranean.

A couple of trips were made to nearby wadis for a day near the sea and, despite the minefields, unexploded bombs, and **Signalman Syd Blow's** Land Rover's addiction to soft sand, these were enjoyed without incident.

The station at El Adem, as the buildings were closed and handed over to the Libyans, condensed into the 'Air Movements' and the commcen and, despite the fact that the station looked like a ghost town, with no facilities for recreation or entertainment, morale never dwindled. One highlight of the stay was a CSE show, starring Joan Regan, but this was the only entertainment outside the N.A.A.F.I.

During the final week, the detachment was involved in a cleaning-up operation of the abandoned part of the station. Among the articles found were two tortoises ('Adolf' and 'Helmet'), now posted to 30th Signal Regiment; one 88 mm. shell, one .5 cannon shell, and various other rounds of ammunition, and about three tons of empty beer cans.

Final close-down of communications

The detachment switched off on the morning of 28th March and within two hours the first cabin was on LSL *Sir Geraint*, ready to sail to England. One cabin was towed down to Tobruk by a Land Rover, owned and driven by **Wing-Comander Tickner,** R.A.F., who also helped to wind down the wheels and pack up the kit.

Lance-Corporal Eric Pickering's cabin was the last to be loaded on the ship, complete with its new tac sign of a gerboa in DMS boots.

The final ceremony to hand over El Adem to the Libyans was held at 11.30 a.m. on 28th March, when **Group Captain Terry, R.A.F.,** handed over to **Lt.-Col. Mahmoud,** Libyan Air Force. After the ceremony, all the officers were entertained to a lunch of sticky cakes and fizzy orange by the Libyans in Tobruk before boarding ship. There were many speeches of farewell and hopes for friendly co-operation in the future.

The LSL sailed in sunshine, but by the next day the Mediterranean proved it can be equally as rough as the Atlantic, and all ranks retired to their bunks. Although no one admitted sea sickness, **Corporal John Cairns** looked more than green. The O.C. kept going, thanks to loads of sea-sick pills in lieu of food. After pleasant stops at Malta and Gibraltar, the detachment got back safely to Marchwood on 7th April.

During the whole operation, excellent co-operation existed between the detachment and R.A.F. communicators, both at El Adem and at Cyprus (to where the detachment was working) and many friends have been made.

The detachment was visited by the C.-in-C., B.F.N.E., G.O.C. NEARELF and Commander 3 Signal Group, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.**

Our Squadron Commander, **Major Bryan Postlethwaite,** also managed to visit his men during a liaison visit to the Near East, and was made very welcome.

The last signal that we sent was as follows:

Routine 280445Z Mar
Fm Det 14 Sig Regt El Adem
To RBDAXA/HQ DCN
RBDAYL/1 Sig Gp
RBQPSE/3 Sig Gp
RBDTVA/14 Sig Regt
RBDTST/30 Sig Regt
Info RBQPC/Comcen Cyprus
RBDTST/School of Signals
BT
Restricted KOQ this is the last signal from Libya PD passed over the link provided by D13 Det of 14 Sig Regt with operators from 14 Sig Regt CMM 30 Sig Regt CMM and R.A.F. PD the circuit El Adem to Cyprus closed 280500Z March 1970 PD this is also the last signal passed by Royal Signals out of the African Continent into DCN
BT
NNNN

He sought it here, he sought it there

That damned elusive Six Pin Plug!

Being the story of a much-travelled Corporal who, so he says, went in search of a six-pin Din plug, from Sharjah to Karachi, then Bangkok, Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Beirut and back to Sharjah, to find the elusive plug at his starting point. Anyway, it was a great trip and congratulations to Corporal Nigel Cox, of 222 Signal Squadron, for his initiative in seeing the world, and Signalman I. Sanderson for editing the write-up which we publish below.

The reason why

"THE problem," said Steve (Corporal B. G. Stephens), "seems to lie between the output stages of the pre-amp, and the input of the Hi-Fi amps. 'Nige,' we need a six-pin Din plug."

After fruitlessly searching the agents in Dubai and Sharjah, I decided the answer lay farther afield. To this end I approached my very sympathetic O.C., **Major P. A. Treseder.** "Excuse me, sir, but I need a couple of days off to find an extremely important accessory for my Hi-Fi set." "Certainly **Corporal Cox** (me). How many days do you think you need?"

"Oh, about 28 days, sir. Here's a provisional itinerary."

"Hm! I see, oh well, away you go. Be sure to bring back something of use!"

Searching Karachi

Two hours before my appointed time of departure the tickets for my flight arrived. According to my timetable (I was unable to keep it completely, as we shall see) my first stop-off point was Karachi. I booked in at a hotel and determined to start my quest immediately. To this end I hailed what is undoubtedly the most dangerous form of transport in this world — the Karachi version of the rickshaw. Powered by motor scooter engines and controlled by homicidal maniacs, these machines and drivers point themselves in the direction they wish to go, and it's go, go, go!

But, I digress. During my flight around Karachi it was my good fortune to glimpse the Mosques of the city. Perhaps the most ornamented and beautifully designed in the world, these Mosques are well worth the visits and time I took to see them.

Unfortunately, although money marts and street hawkers abound in the capital of Pakistan, six-pin Din plugs are unavailable, so off to my next port-of-call, Bangkok, capital of Thailand.

. . . and so to Bangkok

Everything the brochures promised of the city was there. Thanks to the inmates of the 'White Inn' I was able, during my sojourn, to see some of the night life in Bangkok. Abounding with rest and recuperation personnel from Vietnam, the place 'swings' right around the clock. So it was, with a weary head, I made my way to the floating market on the Chao Phya River. Believe me, Venetian gondoliers would be hard put to compete with the helmsmen of these stalls, they manoeuvre amongst hundreds of other such boats with not only ease but unconcern. A truly fascinating sight.

The Temple of the Reclining Buddha—but not a plug in sight

The magnificence of the Grand Palace, which I visited after the market, is paralleled only by the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. But surely the most incredible sight in Bangkok is the Temple of the reclining Buddha. Fuly 150 feet long, this gigantic statue makes the sedate, saffron-robed monks look like ants as they move silently about it.

Naturally, amongst all this splendour it was difficult to even think of my search. But think I did. It wasn't here! On to Hong Kong. Surely, in this supermarket of the world, there must be a six-pin Din plug.

Arriving at Kai Tak airport, my first thought was of a hotel reservation. **Mrs. Haffenden,** the clerk there, informed me that there were no hotels available. Then, kindly, she contacted her husband. **Staff Sergeant B. Haffenden,** R.A.O.C., who volunteered any assistance I hight need. This resulted in my being accommodated, not in a hotel, but in a luxury flat owned by Mr. R. Pixton, who informed me that I was to treat it as my own.

. . . nor in Hong Kong either

According to my schedule, my stay in Hong Kong was to be four days. After searching for the much-needed plug for three out of the four days, I decided to extend my stay by a further three days. Eventually this stretched to a total of 16 well-spent days, owing to flight delays and cancellations. Of course, this time was not wasted! I used the world-famous Star ferry to visit Hong Kong island. From the vantage point on the ferry I was amazed at the utilisation of space in Hong Kong and Kowloon. I suppose the Chinese have had plenty of practice at cramming an area to its fullest extent.

While in Hong Kong I took a tram to the Peak, the highest point on the island, 1,800 feet up. The island was laid out before me, a relief map of buildings and streets. Stunning is my only possible description.

The recreation facilities, i.e. the society, was exceptional; so it was that much of my evening time was used in sampling what Hong Kong had to offer. I met many people and was impressed by everyone's friendly, unassuming attitude. I am most grateful to everybody I met during my stay. Eventually, as I knew it must, my time of departure came. I still had not found the six-pin Din. 'C'est la vie,' I thought. 'But I had had a whale of a time looking for it!'

So off to Australia

My flight from Hong Kong to Sydney, Australia, was uneventful. Immediately on arrival I contacted **Gordon Chater,** an Australian T.V. personality's address I had been given by **Danny Warren,** in Hong Kong. **Gordon Chater** was courteous in the extreme. He took two days off from his work and entertained me royally. I toured Sydney and saw the futuristic 'Opera House,' the world-famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and was fortunate enough to visit the surfers' paradise at Palm Beach. This, and everything else that Australia has to offer is, if anything, underrated in the travel brochures. One thing they did not seem to have anywhere was the object of my travelogue, the infamous six-pin Din plug. It was with some amusement, however, that I noted the attitude of the Australians to anyone with an

Anglicised accent, 'Pommy!' followed by a word denoting doubt as to his legal parentage, is one of the more polite expressions used.

And on to Singapore

"Cast off for'ard! Cast off aft! I'm away to Singapore. Goodbuye Aussie-land!" When the humidity of Singapore hit me I oozed my way to 18th Signal Regiment! The purpose of my visit was to see my good friend, **Sergeant Wally Beard.** He took me under his wing on his way off shift, and that evening was spent in peaceful contentment with **Wally** and his wife. The following day, with the teeming rain for company, **Wally,** his family and I visited the Tiger Balm Gardens and the shops, again with no result to my quest.

It was at this stage that I discovered a mix-up in my flight arrangements and much to my dismay was forced to move two days earlier than planned. As if this were not sufficient, instead of proceeding to Bombay, I had to go to Beirut.

I arrived in Beirut at 3 a.m. and much to my consternation all sorts of horrible rumours were flying abroad, about the imminence of hostilities in the area. Thus, seeking a tin hat, I made my way to bed, only to be rudely awakened by what I thought was mortar fire. I shot bolt upright and you may imagine my relief when I discovered the 'mortar fire' to be someone dragging a chair across the room upstairs, and the automatic rifle fire my knees knocking together.

Taking a taxi later in the morning I went on the fastest tour of my life. This ended with a trip to the hills around the town, where I saw snow. Beautiful, crisp, white snow. This is not unusual through the world, I know, but in Sharjah, from where I had come, it is unheard of let alone seen. I was assured by the driver of the taxi that the view at which I was looking was the best panorama in the world. I didn't disagree with him. Orientals, you see, can be so passionate in their beliefs and I didn't wish to start a holy war.

Looking for a Din plug—there's a couple here

After a brisk hunt for the damnably elusive Din plug and hurried photographs of various views, I made my way to the airport for the last lap of my journey. Sharjah was my destination, which I reached without difficulty, but I was a failure. My expedition was totally unproductive. No six-pin Din plug! How would I ever explain my lack of evidence. You can picture, in technicolor, my relief when, upon arrival at my billet, **Corporal B. G. Stephens** presented me with not one but two six-pin Din plugs! Well, well, well!

My Hi-Fi unit is now complete and working very satisfactorily. Just one minor problem remains—does anyone know where I can get . . . ?

* * *

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the following people for the help they afforded me and for making my search possible: **Major P. A. Treseder,** for granting me leave; B.O.A.C., without whom it would all have been impossible; Royal Signals personnel at Bangkok; **Staff Sergeant B. Haffenden, Mr. R. Pixton** and **Mr. D. Warren** in Hong Kong; the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of No. 3 Supply and Petroleum Depot, R.A.O.C., Hong Kong; **Mr. G. Chater,** in Australia; **Sergeant W. Ll. Beard,** in Singapore.

The modern way with Corps Sub Aqua Divers

They travel two thousand miles— For one day's diving

Operating a hundred foot down in Gan's Coral Reefs

Story by Lieutenant P. H. MacCulloch

FOR about a year, the FARELF Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club had been planning to send an expedition to Gan Island, where it was reported the diving was superb. Permission having been given for the expedition, all that prevented our party going was the availability of an aircraft. Investigation then disclosed that once a month a R.A.F. Hercules made the return flight to Pakistan via Ceylon and Gan. What interested us was the fact that this flight plan would give us a full 36 hours in Gan, and we duly arranged for seats to be booked. The only problem then was, that even for the short period involved, many members of the club were unable to take time off work, and we had difficulty in filling the six places available. With the Regiment about to have its annual administrative inspection, the prospect did not look good; nevertheless, the Commanding Officer agreed that three from the Regiment could go—**Lance-Corporal Pete White, Craftsman John Young** and myself. The other members who made up the expedition were **Major Mike Fraser-Allan,** R.E., expedition leader, **Captain Ken England,** R.A.O.C., and **Sergeant Frank Finch,** R.A.P.C.

Landing in Ceylon

On Monday, 10th February, we booked into Changi Airport at the usual very early hour, having brought all our gear to Air Movements the night before to be loaded. Once in the aircraft we settled down and prepared for take-off. Unfortunately nothing happened, and the Captain announced that a VC-10 had broken down at Gan and that we would have to take on the required spares. By this time I had, as usual, gone to sleep, and was somewhat surprised to be woken and told that instead of being at Gan, we were not even airborne! However, five hours later we landed in Ceylon and most of the other passengers left the plane. They also were apparently making use of the flight for a short visit to that island. After only a brief stop, we were soon on our way and finally arrived at Gan shortly before tea. We were met by the Officer-in-Charge of the Gan Diving Club, who took us to the Gan Transit Hotel. Unfortunately, the hotel had nowhere to put us, being already full with passengers from the stranded VC-10.

It was hoped to get all these people away on a relief Britannia, and the problem would therefore resolve itself. It was suggested that we collect our kit from the aircraft and go directly to the diving club premises, by the sea shore. The air cylinders had travelled fully charged, and we were able to make a quick change into diving gear, head for the sea bottom, and within 40 minutes of arriving, we were exploring the coral reefs that surround the island.

Our first dive

On our first dive our party split into two groups, **Mike Fraser-Allan, Frank Finch** and **John Young** forming one group and **Ken England, Pete White** and myself the other. Both groups dived at the same time, as the Gan club made one of their members available as standby safety diver. We were able to pick up some really beautiful shells, and local club members expressed some surprise that we had found any at all. Having had a 30-minute dive, we sorted out our next day's programme and went to 'book in' and find out if we had any accommodation for the night. Following a day's flying, topped off with a dive, everyone thought that an early night was in order.

The wrecks

Next morning, with some of the local club members to guide us, we left the marine jetty for the first dive location, using their boat. We had planned to visit the wreck of the 'British Loyalty,' an oil tanker which had gone down in the lagoon in 1942. Apparently the ship had been torpedoed and then towed to Gan, where she was left to sink. The Gan club had been given permission to dive on her and had found her on her side in a hundred feet of water. It took our guides some time to find the small marker buoy attached to the stern of the wreck, but once located, we again split into the two groups, and had some very interesting dives, swimming around and through the wreck. **Pete White** found one unusual shell in the end of a pipe and **Ken England** saw, but was unable to collect, what he believes to be a new species of anemone. This would have made an interesting addition to his already large collection in Singapore. As both groups had spent some fifteen minutes at a hundred feet, they had to stop for five minutes at twenty feet, for decompression, on the way up.

Meeting with a venomous sea snake

As we had to fly back the next day, all our subsequent dives had to be no deeper than thirty feet. From the location of the wreck, we moved to another reef, marked by a buoy called 'Trig.' Underneath was the marvellous panorama of a coral garden, which was all colours of the rainbow, and there were

IN DEEP WATER AGAIN . . .
Lieutenant Pat MacCulloch, the writer of this article, diving deep in tropical waters

hundreds of brightly-coloured fish swimming and darting amongst the coral branches. As I had the club underwater camera, I went camera happy and snapped everything in sight. **Mike Fraser-Allan** got a nasty shock when he turned over a lump of coral, only to find a venomous sea snake underneath! Having stayed under water for an hour, we then had to go back to Gan to recharge our air bottles and to have lunch. Diving makes one very hungry!

In the afternoon we visited two more coral reefs and dived on each, finding more interesting and attractive shells. Altogether, we were able to make five dives, and it was a great pity that time was so short. But at least we had had the chance to dive in wonderfully unspoilt waters.

Before we left, **Major Fraser-Allan,** as leader of the expedition, thanked the Station Commander for allowing us to use the Gan facilities, and arranged for our club to return for a week in November. While he was at Station Headquarters, the rest of us thanked the members of the Gan club for having made our short stay such a memorable one. Two thousand miles, just for five dives in the sea! Well, the photographs we have prove it was worth it!

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8 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.

Report from Ulster

In November they arrived at Bulford with nothing but their personal scale of equipment and clothing. By the end of January they had settled down to the full-scale signalling commitment in Ulster—and they found time to enjoy themselves in the sporting field as well.

RADIO REBROADCAST SITE SOMEWHERE IN ULSTER
A wintery scene and the Corps doing its job in Northern Ireland. Private West (R.P.C.) stands guard whilst in the background Lance-Corporal Venn connects in a cable

OUR last notes were written in Chester; since then we have moved twice and are now in H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*, Londonderry.

A three-phase move

The first move was to R.A.F. Ballykelly (16 miles north of Londonderry). It was there that we were to take over command from 24th Brigade. Recce parties were hastily sent over, and, due to the shortage of accommodation and storage space, it was decided to do this move in three phases:

Phase I: This consisted of the D11, commanded by **Corporal 'Manx' Hird,** the Brigade Commander's and Tac H.Q. Rover, commanded by **Corporal 'Griff' Griffiths** and **Lance-Corporal Johnny Woodruff,** respectively. The D11 went straight to Ballykelly to take over the rear link to Lisburn, and the two Rovers went to Lisburn for final fittings.

Phase II: This phase was made up of key personnel of the Squadron on the command and operating side—Squadron Commander, O.C. 'A' Troop, Y. of S., F. of S., M.T. Sergeant (all of whom were to command the rebro sites); **Corporal 'Dinga' Bell, 'Larry' Formosa** and **'Ginge' Adie** for D.S.O. duties in the comcen; **Corporal Terry Gould,** crypto; **Corporal 'Jock' Callaghan** to command the control station. At this stage we had eleven days to settle in and finally take over all operational commitments, no mean task, as we were not scaled as lavishly with men and equipment as our friends in 24 Brigade. Anyway, with excellent co-operation from all, this was achieved.

Phase III: We were already in command when Phase III arrived; it was just a matter of accommodating personnel and giving details of shifts, tasks, etc. A lot of time was spent moving into accommodation and stores vacated by 24 Brigade; long hours were worked by all getting everything ship-shape. At this stage we would like to remind our readers that on 17th November, 1969, when we reported into Carter Barracks, Bulford, we had nothing but our personal scale of equipment and clothing.

Yet another move

We had no sooner settled down in R.A.F. Ballykelly, when our next move was ordered. This time to our present location, H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*. More recces! One of the major problems was that the room allocated for the comcen was 16ft. x 13ft.; this was to accommodate four teleprinters, two radio control stations, counter space for comcen and SDO tasks (come on you works study experts). Secondly, for the D11 rear link there was nowhere to put up antenna masts; the orientation of the endfed and dipole was dictated by the location of the most convenient building (and they were not built for our benefit).

Earth pins were a matter for the M.P.B.W., as there are no gardens or lawns in the vicinity. (Sighs of relief from personnel on outside area cleaning. It is rumoured though, that as the R.S.M. is a keen gardener, this is to be changed!).

Command was finally taken at H.M.S. *Sea Eagle* at D11500A MAR. We have still to move again within the barracks, this being around June, when the R.N. finally 'cast-off.'

Yes—we can move quickly

All these moves would have suited units in Stratco, but this is supposed to be a static unit. Apart from our joint working, we claim that, at the mention of 'Quicktrain' we can move out of barracks quicker than our friends in B.A.O.R., AND not leave anything behind!

We have certainly had some exciting and frustrating moments in our short existence, but, as **Corporal Bell** says: "This is the happy Squadron." Whether this is because of the ratio of women to men is three-to-one over here or not we don't yet know. On that score keep an eye on the marriages column.

Footnote

We would like to congratulate **Signalman Dave Price** and **Corporal Moira Horsfield,** W.R.A.C., who are to be married on 14th May. Better get these notes in the post before there are any more!

Further footnote

In having written these notes, the Yeoman has paid his penance. The more discerning reader must not be discouraged —everybody must have their opportunity. Sooner or later this Squadron will have to find the ideal WIRE writer.

A LITTLE TIME FOR SPORT TOO

A LITTLE UNSURE BEFORE THEIR FIRST GAME
Left to right: Signalman Seed, Corporal Bell, Signalman Mansell, Lance-Corporal Bentley, Signalman Mitchell, Corporal Gould, Lieutenant Whiddett, Signalman Dinnage

AFTER THE FIRST GAME OF RUGBY—"IT WAS EASY"
Left to right: Corporal John, Signalman Seed, Signalman Mansell, Signalman Price, Lance-Corporal Kay, Signalman Iseton

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7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

Vale

WE bid farewell to **Major G. R. Oehlers** and his wife, **Doreen,** and thank them for all that they have done for the Squadron during their tour. He goes to join **Captain Hunt** at the School—we expect to move back to U.K. shortly, when the consortium make their takeover bid! We wish them well at the School and welcome **Major Rigby** as Squadron Commander.

Jerboa jotting

—**Rifleman Richards** discovered it's best to lock the bedroom door before you take your pants down . . .

—AQ have lost their nomination in the Wildlife Conservation contest . . .

—Recce's most difficult task on 'Talons High' was finding suitable barns in which to show films. More than one sound track competed with the mooing of contented cows . . .

—After the third cancellation of VIP visits, the R.S.M. was heard to mutter something about "whipping the dervishes into a frenzy . . . "

—**Captain Thorne** will be pleased to hear that he brightened the R.S.M.'s day when he arrived for a brief visit—complete with haircut.

24 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (210) Plymouth

WITH the arrival of 8th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron from Chester (and very welcome, too) we returned to our home base in Plymouth, Devon, after six long months in Northern Ireland. As in our journey out, the return to the West Country took quite a bit of organisation which, nevertheless, we are pleased to report went off without a hitch. The main party left by road on 27th, 28th and 29th January, followed by a party which left by air on the 29th (the day on which command of the area was transferred to 8th Brigade). Our final party of three, under **R.Q.M.S. Harry Bell,** following on 3rd February.

Best wishes to 8th Brigade for the future—it will be quite some time before the memories of Northern Ireland grow dim in our minds!

CHECKING BATTERIES
Signalmen Kevin Nicholls and John Gadson make sure their batteries are up to the job

THE RADIO ROOM, BALLYKELLY
W.O.II (F. of S.) George Geldard, Signalman Dennis Donovan, W.O.II (Y. of S.) John Birkwood and Corporal Tony Bowen are kept pretty busy

Settling in 'Back Home'

Settling in 'back home' did not take long, and with the prospect of a month's leave, from mid-February to mid-March, the interim period of a couple of weeks was just enough to put the house in order again. Once back at Crownhill Fort, there followed an intense programme of repairs, checks, stock-takings, audits, and storage of our equipment from Northern Ireland. A very good chance to welcome and orientate the new Squadron Commander, **Major John Taylor,** who assumed command of the Squadron from **Major Paul Alexander, M.B.E.,** in Ireland in mid-December.

Fourteen days between our return journey and leave to get the camp and stores ship-shape and, thanks to the good work of **Captain (Q.M.) Stan Pavey** and his band of followers, not such a hard task.

Now to a more lighter note. Before we 'broke up' on 12th February, we held a 'Welcome Home' dance in the gymnasium —a gala occasion, attended by all ranks of the Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. Our thanks to **Captain Peter Stanley** and his team for the organisation and original ideas for this super evening; poor old Plumer Barracks had not seen the like for many a day, nor will again, we suspect! A great evening was had by all. We must also 'pat on the back' our Cook Sergeant, **Bill Hawes,** and the chefs, who worked so hard and produced such gastronomic delights that were a joy to partake, and it was difficult to believe could be produced in such a relatively short notice for the dance. Well done, the cooks.

Not to be outdone, both the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes held equally splendid affairs, on Saturday, 14th (Valentine's Day) and, like the night of the 12th February, this was a chance for the ladies to have their long-awaited night out—a great time for everyone.

A 'Round Britain Tour' again

On 16th March we embark on a new year and training season, and we look forward to a diverse and interesting period, with involvement in the 'Mayflower '70' celebrations; the annual 10 Tors Walk, and, of course, the programme of training exercises, which looks like taking us on another 'Round Britain Tour'!

Rather belated, but nevertheless, we must not go by without sending our best wishes to **Major Paul Alexander** and his family, now settled in Stanmore; also, a hearty welcome to **Major** and **Mrs. John Taylor.**

Other departures include **Sergeants 'Jock' Kerr, 'Paddy' Peake, 'Jock' Waldron, Corporals 'Pop' Ives, Ralph Angell, Tom Gannon, Lance-Corporals Ron Curtis, Signalmen Mike Stone** and **Andy Begg;** and, oh dear, we nearly forgot, **Sergeant Bob Turner.**

A hearty welcome to **Sergeants Jim Low, John McIver, Alex Palmer, Stephen Fowler, Signalmen Bob Chambers, Tony Wilson-Ward'e, Stuart Higginbottom** and **Bob Jennings.**

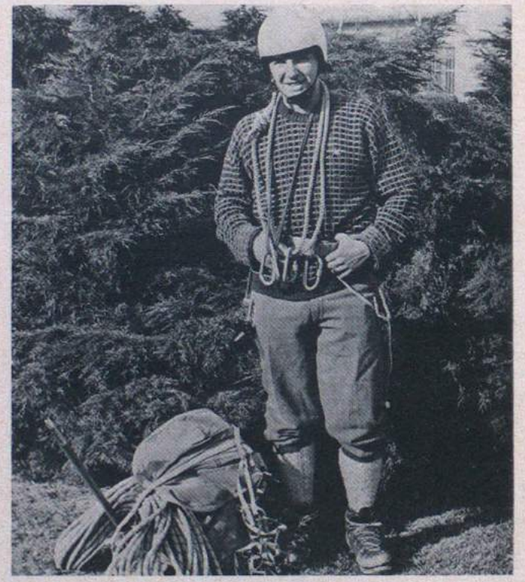
Read more news of our hectic life in the next edition!

STOP PRESS

The Seven-a-Side 'B' rugby team, captained by **Captain Mike Forge,** came second in the Brigade competition, held at Bulford on 21st March.

Hockey.—The hockey team are now in the Divisional final after beating 1 A.P.F. by 4 points to 2. The team was captained by **Major Tony Whittal,** R.C.T. (G3 Air). Included in the team are such hoary enthusiasts as **Captain Stan Pavey** (Quarter-master) and **Captain Ray Baldry,** Royal Anglian (Admin. Officer). All played excellent games.

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



CLIMBING CORPORAL
Corporal Bradley entered the Corps a keen climber and during his five years' service has been able to keep it up becoming an instructor at the Army Outward Bound School in Norway (see unit notes)

A course with a difference — 99.9 per cent pass

THE Squadron has just completed the first Regimental Signallers' Standard I Course to be held outside the U.K. This, in itself, does not appear too difficult a task, but with the commitments a Brigade Squadron has, plus the lack of Infantry equipments and the high standards set by Warminster, an eight-weeks course of this nature is quite an undertaking.

The course had eleven students—from 1 King's, 1 Green Howards, 1 Gordons. We were also fortunate to have two R.S.I.s attached to the Squadron for the course. In order that the trade test should be the same standard as the School of Infantry, **Sergeant Noonan** came to Minden to supervise the examinations. The results were most pleasing, as the only failure was one paper by one student. Praise must go to the instructors for the course gaining a 99.9 per cent pass rate away from the ideal conditions of the School of Infantry.

Captain C. A. Brown was the course officer; **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Cole** was the course tutor, and helping him were **Corporals McConnel, Denton, Doherty, Donald** and **Sergeant Adams.**

A professional climber

Corporal Bradley began climbing at the age of twelve in the Derbyshire hills. Within three years he was climbing the hardest grades of Curbar Edge. This was followed by artificial climbing on the limestone of Matlock and small expeditions to the Lake District and Wales.

In 1964 he joined the Royal Signals and, whilst in training, he was able to continue climbing in Yorkshire.

Corporal Bradley came to Germany in 1965 and was introduced to snow and ice climbing with the German Alpine Corps at Mittenwald. In 1967 he was posted as an instructor to the Outward Bound School in Norway, teaching rock, snow and ice work.

Whilst in Norway he went on several expeditions with the School staff, including climbing Norway's second highest mountain named 'Glitterstind.'

SHOOTING YEOMAN
Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Cole has made his mark in the shooting world (see unit notes)

A shooting Yeoman

Since **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Cole** arrived in the Squadron in October, 1968, he has organized and taken part in a most successful rifle team. He was placed fifth in the 1968 Rhine Army individual competition and in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Competition he was the individual winner.

In May, 1969, the Yeoman led the Squadron team to first place in the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill-at-Arms Meeting for 1 (BR) Corps area. He was also runner-up in the pistol.

Finally, again in the Rhine Army Championships, he was the Brigade individual winner for the second year and qualified for the individual final, where he was placed second.

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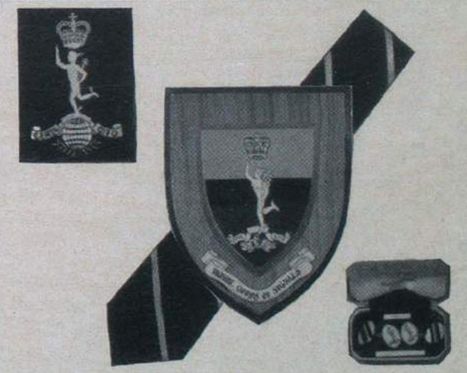

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12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn.
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MARCH has been a busy month for the Squadron, commencing with a Command Post exercise, 'First Try,' continuing with C.C.R. Signals exercise, 'Talons High,' and followed by border patrols, 432 drivers' courses and an MPC III course—all run in the unit.

WAITING FOR THE NEXT MOVE . . .
Cheerful linemen of 12th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron awaiting the order to move off during Squadron exercises. *Left to right:* Signalman Rose, Signalman Ross, Lance-Corporal Olsen, Lance-Corporal Sykes and Signalman Davenport

. . . . NOW WE ARE MOVING
Sergeant Burrows in the drivers compartment, with Signalman Kirton, and Signalman Loveridge looking on

The Exercise Scene

On exercise 'Talons High,' the Squadron was only required to work rearward communications to Division. We did, however, simulate forward communications and kept **Corporal Malpass** and **Lance-Corporal Earnshaw** and their crews busy with their rebros. Our 432s and 439s proved to be fairly reliable on this exercise, with the result that we never lost communications once on the whole exercise. Everybody was kept busy, as the photographs show.

Border Patrol

Following the exercise, 'B' Troop went on border patrol. The second day's patrolling was cut short, however, when **Signalman Kirton's Land Rover** became bogged, and after **Signalman Potter** had attempted to pull the vehicle out and had himself become stuck, it was decided to obtain outside help. The Bundes Grenz Schutz arrived with a lorry which immediately got bogged; they then brought a bigger one, which also became stuck. After another hour had gone and the vehicles had sunk a bit more, a winch vehicle arrived, and one by one we became unstuck, only to discover that **Signalman Potter's** clutch had broken and he had to be towed the 170 miles home. Everybody, however, arrived back in time to go camping the next day, which happened to be Good Friday.

Easter

Despite the snow and ice, many activities took place over the Easter break. A party of 12 went camping down to the Edersee. **Lance-Corporal Cattell, Lance-Corporal Storey, Signalman Carter** and **Signalman Currill,** the sub-acqua members of the Squadron, went diving in the Möhnesee, and a large number went to Holland to sample the delights of Amsterdam.

Table Tennis

Following the unit's success in the 2nd Division sports, our latest success is in table tennis, where we have beaten all the major units in the Division. The team (**Corporal Mason, Corporal Glasspool** and **Lance-Corporal Bassett**) after fighting their way through some extremely exciting matches, are now competing in the B.A.O.R. statge.

223 Signal Squadron (Radio)
Winchester

WHEN the writer of these notes asked for contributions on events since the last WIRE notes, the S.S.M. produced a graphic account of Guy Fawkes night. Last season's batting averages were likewise filed with the classified waste.

To concentrate on this year's events, the New Year started with the Sergeants' Mess being marched to the Officers' Mess for drinks. The departure was somewhat less orderly, and the Officers and Sergeants' Mess versus the rest football match, which followed, was thoroughly enjoyed by all, even if no one was quite sure of the result.

Annual Admin Inspection

Our Annual Admin Inspection, on 12th February, started well, with the Commander, 1 Signal Group, **Colonel E. J. Winn,** and **Lieutenant-Colonel J. N. Congdon** pushing their staff car through the streets of Salisbury in a blizzard. After a successful visit to a local garage, and inspection of the quarter guard inside the guardroom, the Commander's party started their tour of Bushfield. By the time the Training Wing, at the top of the hill, was reached, the party looked rather like members of Scott's expedition to the Antarctic. However, despite the weather, the Commander seemed satisfied with what little wasn't obscured by the swirling snow, and we once more settled down to another quiet 11½ months.

Adventure Training

Since our last contribution, the Squadron has taken part in two adventure training exercises. The first, last autumn, was to the Cairngorms, for climbing, under the leadership of the Officer Commanding, **Major Tony Bushell,** and **Second-Lieutenant Tom Moncur;** and the second was as guests of 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, on a return to the Cairngorms, this time for ski-ing. An account of this exercise appears on page 217.

(*Continued on page* 217)

(*Continued from page* 216)

Arrivals and departures

Since our last notes, **Captain Phil Hodges** and **Second-Lieutenant Tom Moncur** have departed for B.A.O.R., and our Q.M., **Major Jack Needham,** has left for the bright lights of London. **Second-Lieutenant David Jessett** also left us for a short time, but finding it was all a mistake, has now returned to the fold. **Major Peter Clague-Quine, Staff Sergeant Kennedy** and **S.Q.M.S. Broad** have ventured into 'Civvy Street.' We wish them the best of luck in their retirement. A special vote of thanks is due to **Major Clague-Quine** for all the hard work he has put in on behalf of the unit.

In their place we welcome **Captain Douglas Burt, Major Alan French, Captain Stan Brice, Lieutenant Ken Day, W.O.II Teesdale, S.Q.M.S. Davies** and **Staff Sergeant Crump.**

Captain Howard Culley also returned to the unit for a spell during the winter, and the O.C. took the opportunity of giving him the imprest account, in the fond hope that this might encourage him to visit the unit more often. But now the warmer weather is here, there is a strong rumour that the O.C. is to be seen writing up the account in the Pay Office.

Exercise 'Spring Jump'

An account by Signalman Dennis Hughes

A small but ambitious party, consisting of **Captain Howard Culley, Y. of S. Dave Tunmore, Sergeant Bob Mawson** and myself, left Winchester on Friday, 13th March, for the cold North of Scotland. The train journey time was spent in a successful attempt to play cards through the night, occasionally interrupted by very intelligent conversation, which usually started with "Have you heard the one about . . . "

On arrival at Aviemore, we met up with the rest of the party from 3rd Division, led by **Lieutenant Schofield,** who were our hosts for the week. We travelled up to our home for the next ten days, called Rothiemurchus Hut, miles from anywhere, and up a dirt track Dave Bickers, Arthur Lampkin, and other well-known motor cross experts would have had difficulty in negotiating.

The following day we started ski-ing—tramping around in 'king-size wooden feet.' Most people obviously thought initially that the idea was to get to the top of a hill, aim at another one, and use the skis as a toboggan. But gradually, thanks to some excellent instruction, most people learnt enough to venture on to the slopes of the Cairngorms. At the top of a long and arduous trek, **Sergeant Bob Mawson** relaxed for a second and immediately started on an involuntary fast run to the bottom. With great presence of mind, the instructor shouted "get the teas in," as he disappeared towards Loch Morlich like an express train. At the end of the week, the Yeoman, who had been desporting himself on the more difficult runs, followed a certain officer, a comparative novice, down the last stretch to the bottom of the tow bar. On looking back, the Captain was astonished to see the Yeoman had gleefully thrown his skis away and was having great fun sliding down on his back.

Special mention must be made of **Sergeant Bob Mawson,** who took charge of the catering side, and never failed to produce varied and excellent meals. It seems fitting that when he did have an accident, it wasn't on the ski slopes, but in an unsuccessful battle with a corned beef tin.

Apres ski activities nearly took more of a toll than actual ski-ing, and amazing totals, such as less than 20 hours sleep for the whole time were notched up by almost everyone. The ten days were over far too quickly, and we returned tired and somewhat bruised and battered, but having enjoyed Exercise 'Spring Jump' to the full.

234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
B.F.P.O. 51

Visit of the Director of Telecommunications (Army)

BRIGADIER A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., visited the Squadron during March accompanied by the C.S.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel C. Mitchell,** Royal Signals. After inspecting the

A LOT OF LONG SERVICE HERE
Left to right: Lance-Corporal Leslie Cauchi, Lance-Corporal Joe Debono, Corporal Saviour Privitera, W.O.I (F. of S.) Geordie Martin, Signalman Emidio Farrugia, Sergeant Bob Alden after presentation of L.S. and G.C. medals by Brigadier A. D. Brindley M.B.E., A.D.C.

Quarter Guard, he presented six Long Service and Good Conduct medals, and Long Service awards to seven civilian employees, and was able to see the communication set-up in Malta, meeting a large proportion of the Squadron at their work. The last port of call (sorry about that) was at a site for a new auto-exchange at the Navy's Shore Base, H.M.S. St. Angelo. Afterwards, leaving from the quarter-deck and travelling by R.C.T. vessel 'Callboy' across Grand Harbour to Valletta, he saw the communications provided for ships at buoys.

DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS MEETS TECHNICIAN
Brigadier A. D. Brindley has a chat with newly arrived Lance-Corporal Len Rowland Jones who appears fascinated with the gold braided cordage on the Brigadiers right shoulder. This is an aiguillette as worn by A.D.C.'s to H.M. The Queen. Brigadier Brindley was recently appointed A.D.C. to Her Majesty

Progress

It is interesting to note that the 50-year-old P.A.B.X. at Hal-Far has finally been laid to rest, being replaced by the slightly more modern pre-2000 type equipment on 26th February. This work was completely carried out by **Mr. Charles Xerri, B.E.M.,** and **Corporals Maurice Hurley** and **George Brown.** This is the last major task undertaken by **Mr. Xerri** before retirement in April after 42 years' loyal service to the Royal Signals in Malta. Well done and thank you, **Mr. Xerri.**

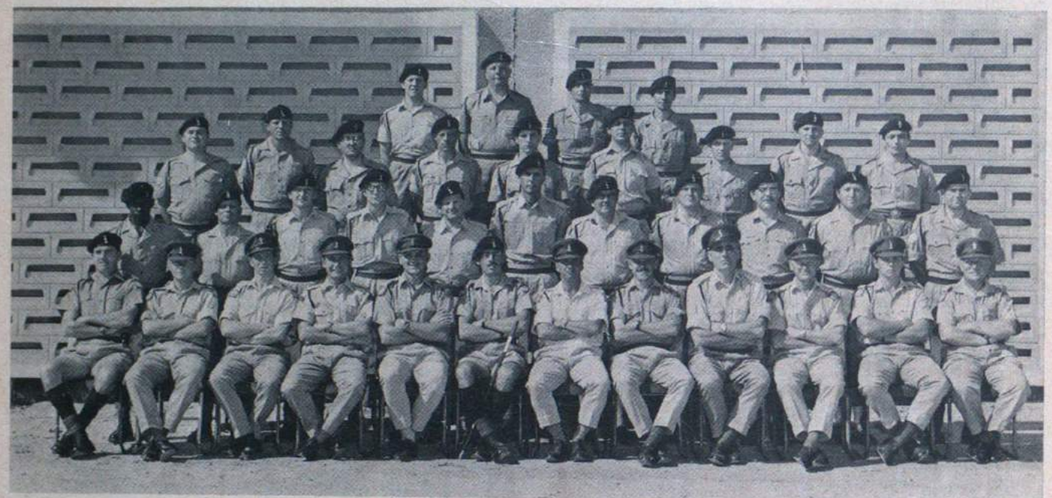
More progress

At the end of the year we are replacing the 600-line pre-2000 type P.A.B.X. at R.A.F. Luqa (Gladiator) with a 900-line Cross Bar P.A.B.X. Technicians with experience of pre-2000, 2000 and Cross Bar type auto-exchanges only, should now apply for posting to Malta!

A quiet take-over

It appears that everyone is changing jobs, and take-over bids are the order of the day under communication rationalisation—however, for some time now the Malta Ace High station has been wholely in Royal Signals hands. **W.O.I (F. of S.) 'Geordie' Martin** took over command from **C.P.O. Richard Linsell,** R.N., and is ably assisted by **Sergeant Roger Grant** and eight technicians to make a complete Royal Signals team, coming under T.M. Troop for administration purposes.

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrein), B.F.P.O. 63



THE OFFICERS AND SENIOR NCO's OF 255 SIGNAL SQUADRON MARCH 1970

Left to Right, Back Row: Sergeants Lyth, Edison, Clayforth, Scriven

3rd Row: Sergeants McMillan, Wood, Robson, Fraser, Brown, How, Gallagher, Illman, Bradley

2nd Row: Sergeants Ferguson, Tate, Ryder, Staff Sergeants (F. of S.) Shone, Treharne, Potter, Harriss, Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Baker, Sergeants Croad-Brangwyn, Read, Tanner

Front Row: W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Withall, Second-Lieutenant Paterson, Lieutenant Whittaker, Captain Scarff, Major (T.O.T.) Knight, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Le Quesne, Major J. P. Brian, Captain Griffiths, Major (T.O.T.) Render, Captain (T.F.C.) Bicknell, Lieutenant Pawlow, W.O.I (A.S.M.) Batty

"I'VE cleared my tray," said the O.C., off on a month's course to U.K. "All I've left for you to do is THE WIRE notes." How nice of him, I thought, to leave me something to keep me occupied. At least there won't be any nasty comments about the Second-in-Command spending all his time bird watching in this edition. **Lieutenant Paul Whittaker,** editor of our Squadron magazine, 'The Bush Telegraph,' seemed the ideal man to write for THE WIRE, but he declined the invitation. The S.S.M., **W.O.II Le Quesne** (pronounced Ler Cane) broke into his best Guernsey patois when approached, and pleaded that he is illiterate. He says he is paid to express himself on the parade ground and not on paper. . . . How one goes off people sometimes.

Departures

Our boating T.O.T., **Major Les Knight,** has left us for cooler climes, and boat insurance premiums in Bahrain have dropped 50 per cent. He was presented with a Gulf Veteran's tie when he left, with our very best wishes. We welcome, in his place, **Major Vic Render,** fisherman and bird watcher.

A lot more veterans are leaving us, regrettably—**Sergeant Bill Semple, Sergeant Ian Ryder, A.S.M. Ron Batty, F. of S. Chris Shone, Sergeant Mick Read** and **Sergeant Ted Lyth** (who, with the help of **Mrs. Lyth,** had a neo-lyth recently, congratulations). They all threw a marvellous farewell curry party, much enjoyed by all.

The O.C. was inundated with useful gifts, including a cartoon from C.R. Signals Branch.

Sergeants Pat Travers and **Max Pond** have already moved on. We wish them all the best of luck in their new postings.

Valuable moustache

Second-Lieutenant Hugh Paterson, our 'No. 1 Hairy,' is less hairy than he was. He put his brand-new moustache up for auction on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind. This sporting sacrifice raised some 20 dinars for the charity. It seems that this gentleman also rather puzzled customs officials at the jetty when he confidently charged up and reported that the party he had just been out fishing with "had absolutely nothing to declare." Could it be they were involved in illegal pearl diving?

SWS Wedding

SWS Troop turned out in strength for the wedding of **Lance-Corporal Paul Bill** at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Manama. A really swinging reception, in the J.R.C., kept going until midnight. The bride and bridegroom are spending their honymoon in U.K. before they set up their new home in Germany, and the whole Squadron send their very best wishes. Other bachelors recently, or about to be spliced, include **Lance-Corporal Colin Riches, Signalman Geordie Howe, Signalman Mark Walton** and **Signalman Brian Sutherland,** all of whom have our best wishes. (Haven't they heard about the pay rise?).

Bird news

Field Troop's 'budgerigar stud farm' is proving a huge success, thanks to **Signalman 'Big John' Christie,** their chief hatcher. At the most recent count, seven eggs had hatched, and both mothers and chicks are reported to be 'fairly comfortable.'

The Second-in-Command, **Captain Bill Griffiths,** had a well-earned rest in the Trucial States recently, on a bird-watching expedition. His Mark I Hide, constructed, thanks to the co-operation of Tels. Workshops, proved of considerable value, and photographs of several rare species were obtained. The all-Service expedition carried out a natural history survey of Wadi Siji. Specimens of plants and animals were collected for Kew and the Natural History Museum, and a great deal of new information about the distribution and habits of birds in that area was discovered.

Motor Transport Troop

Sergeant 'Boss' Ferguson and his fourteen henchmen still feel that their efforts are not fully acknowledged. They say that cricket is their strongest sport, but will have a go at anything. At the moment they are 'having a go' at preparation for the U.E.I., and their efforts we fully acknowledge. They send their best wishes to **Lance-Corporal 'Sucky' Sinclair** and **Signalman William Jackson,** who have recently left us.

Soccer-it-to-'em

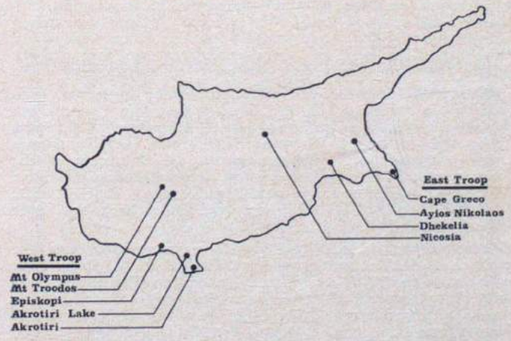
No less than four members of the Squadron played for the Combined Services Soccer team, which toured Cyprus recently. Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Pete Campbell, Lance-Corporal John McFarlane, Signalman Dave Thompson** and **Corporal 'Paddy' Parkhill.** Team manager and coach, **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ernie Withall,** says he ought to be mentioned.

Athletes

At the Army (Bahrein) Individual Athletics Meeting, **Lance-Corporal Pete Campbell** won the 220 yards hurdles and **Corporal Chas Rees** won the javelin. **Sergeants Neville Illman** and **Barry Brown** obtained the first two positions in the long jump. They now go on to represent the Army (Bahrain) against the other Services.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

Cyprus Detachment Locations



THE featured section of the Squadron this month is the Episkopi terminal. The station suffers all the disadvantages of being located next to both S.H.Q. and R.R.E.C., however, they manage to survive in spite of this. The terminal itself is a line mechanic's paradise, bursting at the seams with carrier equipment and VFTs, and only a few of those radio machines! N.C.O.-in-charge of the station is **Sergeant Joglekar,** ably assisted by **Sergeant Hetherington.** Both are keen sportsmen, the former representing the Squadron at hockey and cricket, and the latter is a stalwart of the rugby team. The workers on the station are **Corporals Taylor, Grohs, Graeme, Humphrey** and **Lance-Corporal Evans. Corporal Taylor** is one of the stars of the Squadron hockey team, trying to fit his marriage in with fixtures was quite a problem. **Corporals Grohs** and **Graeme** are also keen rugby players.

Amateur Radio

Sergeant Heath is hoping to be 'on the air' in time for the Corps 50th Anniversary. He is a member of a Combined Services Club, with their station located in Limassol, and they hope to have a special call sign for the anniversary.

Hockey

The competitive side of the hockey season has now finished. The Squadron team came fourth in the Western S.B.A. Major Units League and hope to do even better next season, when **Sergeant Luis** should have recovered from his broken knee. The Squadron has unfortunately been eliminated from the Western S.B.A. Knockout Competition, and the only major event remaining is the mixed hockey festival on 5th April. We have already had a warm-up match for this and are all looking forward to a good day's hockey as a finalé to the season.

HAPPY WINNERS . . .

259 Signal Squadron Six-a-side hockey team who won the Cyprus Inter-Squadron Cup by beating 262 Signal Squadron 2-1

Back row: Signalman Hyland, Corporal Geary, Sergeant McGilp, Sergeant Lowry

Front row: Corporal Taylor, Corporal Lyon, W.O.I (F. of S.) Short, Second-Lieutenant Lee

Basketball

The Squadron have been competing in two leagues this season. A team drawn from all troops playing in the Episkopi Inter-Section League and are currently lying second in this. Players from East Troop have been playing in the Dhekelia Minor Units League and Dhekelia Signals 'A' and 'B' teams. The 'A' team are undefeated this season. **Sergeant Harrison** of our Cape Greco detachment has again been selected to represent the Army (Cyprus).

Rugby

The rugby season has now ended, here in Cyprus. It has been a reasonably successful season for the Squadron team, largely due to the willingness of players to travel from our remote detachments to play at weekends.

647 Signal Troop, Christchurch

Troop disbanding shortly

SADLY, these will be the last notes sent from this Troop as, at the end of May, 1970, the Troop will be disbanding. Formed in November, 1965, we were the first in the Corps to get into the satellite business, in what is described by the locals as "that white dome thing by the sea," and other somewhat less polite terms. Indeed, the majority of them seem convinced that the Radome is Britain's answer to the Apollo Project!

On a lighter note, the majority of Troop members will be sorry to say goodbye to what has been described as the 'Signals' Butlin's' (due to our ideal situation, just above Avon Beach). Lunch hours during the summer months were spent swimming, sunbathing or 'scientifically' regarding the bathing beauties.

Christmas festivities

A buffet dance was organised at a Bournemouth Hotel by the Troop during December, to which the Director of the Signals Research and Development Establishment was invited, together with members of S.R.D.E. An enjoyable evening was had by all, although some greeted the following morning through somewhat bleary and bloodshot eyes!

Corporal 'Bas' Pheasant, who was unfortunately hospitalised over Christmas with an injured elbow, managed, nevertheless, to enjoy himself; his uninjured arm being put to good use uplifting the liquid refreshment that his bedside visitors had thoughtfully provided.

New arrivals

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal Chris Collier** and his wife on the birth of a daughter, Amanda Jane, and to **Sergeant** and **Mrs. Keith Austin** on the birth of a son, André.

Au revoir to the Nelson

'The Nelson,' scene of many a jollification, and lunchtime command post of the Troop, was the sad setting for a solemn occasion, when the proprietor was presented with a handsome plaque, especially made by **Staff Sergeant Rod Dixon.**

Discotheque evening

W.O.II (F. of S.) Peter Gill, Staff Sergeant Rod Dixon, together with **Sergeants Roger Foster** and **Keith Austin,** organised a very successful 'rave-up' at R.A.F. Sopley Sergeants' Mess. Fortunately, none of their wives noticed that mess decorating was done during the opening hours.

Departures

Sergeant Ken Filkington has left for new pastures at Worcester; **Corporal Jimmy Menzies** has joined his new Regiment in Germany and **Sergeant Roger Foster** has left to take his F. of S. Course at Blandford; **Sergeant John Rusling** has become a 'civvy' and is now sporting a very natty white dust coat, he is soon to be followed into 'Civvy Street' by **Sergeants John Fletcher** and **Geoff Timms.**

Special mentions

Corporals 'Mac' Macintosh and **Ian Davies** had their T1 results confirmed; **Cpls. Brian Oram** and **Dave Stanbridge** gained their T1 extrance exam; **Lance-Corporal Ian Cox** passed two subjects towards A.C.E.1, including Grade 3 at English (no wonder we have no problems in the Clerk's Department) and **Signalman 'Dib' Dibble** passed his M.P.C. Course—congratulations to them all.

Congratulations also to **Dave Watson,** who has just been promoted Sergeant and is due to sit the Yeoman's entrance exam shortly; we wish him luck and hope he will defeat the examiners.

Signalman 'Mick' Warwick has been seen tearing around the countryside at a dashing 30 m.p.h. in his bright-red Jaguar, causing much annoyance to the New Forest ponies and the W.R.A.F.s at Sopley.

Last, but not least, you have probably noticed that **Rod Dixon** is now a Staff Sergeant. He has moved to Worcester and will be sadly missed. The Christchurch Mussel-Shooting Club has been disbanded and the Troop will have to pay for their haircuts in future.

Final farewell

We wish all Troop members, whether they have left already or are shortly to leave, good luck in the future, and we hope that as many of them as possible will be able to come to the farewell dance being held on 8th May.

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) Wanstead

THE last few months have been taken up mainly with trade training, recruiting and administration in preparation for the coming exercise season and annual camp.

Intense recruiting drive

A major recruiting drive is in progress, in conjunction with national and regional efforts. We have had 'at homes' motorised drives and displays, shop window displays, press campaigns, and posters in likely, as well as unlikely places. It is early to assess the long-term results, but there are encouraging signs.

Our series of technical and administrative inspections culminated in the annual Fitness for Role inspection, carried out by the Commander, 12th Signal Group, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** in March. He visited Wanstead (R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron), where he particularly commented on the smartness of the quarter guard, under the command of **Sergeant Malcolm Harlow,** of H.Q. Squadron. He also visited Newbury Park (L.A.D., R.E.M.E.), and on the following weekend, Cambridge, 54th (East Anglia) Squadron.

Unfortunately, illness prevented him from completing the visits and the Deputy Commander, **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.,** stepped in and cast a searching eye over 45th (Essex) Squadron and 44th (Cinque Ports) Squadron. These visits coincided with trade boards for those who had been studying during the winter months.

We now have 65 per cent of our strength trained in their trade.

Officers' Mess

Once again we combined our Regimental Ball with the Reserve Army Officers' Ball at Derry and Toms on 3rd April. This annual event is well supported and among the 700 guests we were well represented.

We were very pleased to have with us, as principal guests, **Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon,** Secretary of the Greater London Association, and his wife.

We are sorry to say farewell to members of the permanent staff who have worked so hard for the Regiment.

Captain (Q.M.) Alan Harfield left in March for Singapore, and **Major Patrick Templeman-Evans,** our Training Major since December, 1967, left in April for the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate. To them and their families we say 'thank you' and send our best wishes for the future.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

FOREMEN THREE

Everyone in Royal Signals knows the value of a Foreman of Signals and in 38th Signal Regiment (V) we have three (not counting our Regular F. of S.). To add to the mathematics of the situation, two of them are identical twins!

Our three volunteer Foremen are Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Toft, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) K. Knowles and Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Knowles. All are members of 87 (Nottingham) Signal Squadron and all three joined the Squadron as Signalmen in its T.A. days.

The photograph shows Staff-Sergeant Toft with Staff-Sergeant Knowles K. on his left and Staff-Sergeant Knowles R. on his right (or is it the other way round?) In 38th Signal Regiment we don't just shout "technician", we shout "Foreman" —and wait for the rush!

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NATOCARS

Forty three years and still serving

SERGEANT **Norman Pope** considers that he may well have the longest service record of any soldier still serving with the Regular or Volunteer Forces, and he has 43 years to back up his argument!

It was at Bordon Camp on 26th November, 1926, that he took the King's shilling and committed himself to a lifetime of service to the Crown. He signed on as a Band boy at the age of 15½ with the Royal Sussex Regiment in which his brother (who recently retired as **Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Pope,** ex-Director of Music for the Coldstream Guards) was Band Sergeant.

. . . . as a young cornet player

He was already a cornet player, and when, during service in India, the Band played his brother to the railway station on being posted home, **Norman Pope** was handed the French horn, which had been his brother's instrument, and told to go away and learn how to play it. Two weeks later he was playing the echo to the French horn solo in the 'Overture to Robespierre' at a public performance.

He served in India for eight-and-a-half years and took up the second trade of Nursing Orderly, Class I. As such he saw service at Nowshera, Rawalpindi, the North West Frontier and Hyderabad Sind, and was on the first medical relief train to reach the destruction caused by the Quetta earthquake. He was appointed Chief Clerk at Karachi Military Hospital which had to deal with victims of the riots of the early thirties.

He was then posted to Palestine and subsequently Egypt. It was during this period that he nearly blotted his crime sheet, as he was in an out-of-bounds area in Jaffa which was raided by the Military Police. **Norman Pope** jumped out of a window into the arms of an M.P. Sergeant, knocking him over. He escaped in the general turmoil but found to his consternation that this same Sergeant was brought into his hospital a few days later for treatment which lasted several weeks. Although the Sergeant needed daily treatment he never recognised the man he had met so abruptly a short while earlier.

Having served his 12 years with the colours and attained the rank of local Sergeant, he transferred to the Class B reserve on 8th March, 1938, and went to Woolwich Arsenal on the staff of the Chief Inspector of Ammunition. He was swiftly mobilised again on 15th June, 1939, when war preparations were gaining momentum and trained in Northern Ireland.

On 2nd September he was posted back to his old Regiment where he took over the Reception Station of the Royal Sussex Regiment at Chichester which recruited 450 men each fortnight. When American troops arrived in 1942 the depot was closed and **Sergeant Pope** was transferred to the R.A.O.C., serving in several depots including the Crawley tracked-vehicle depot which issued these essential weapons for the invasion of France.

Demobilisation came on 6th December, 1945, and he was one of the 'Z' men, but as soon as he heard the first mention of re-forming the Territorial Army in 1947, he took civilian employment with the T.A. and signed on as a volunteer once again, this time with the R.A./H.A.A. (T.A.) on 26th June, 1947. With this Regiment he served as a Sergeant and as Chief Clerk until the disbandment of A.A. Command on 25th June, 1955, when he was transferred to the Army General Reserve.

He looked round and found another opening with the London Scottish on 23rd April, 1956, where he was O.R.Q.M.S., and in July, 1960, transferred to the R.A.O.C. (T.A.) as W.O.I Conductor.

In July, 1962, he took the civilian post of Chief Clerk and W.O.II O.R.Q.M.S. to the Commander of Royal Signals,

U.K.L.F., under **Colonel B. R. Wood, D.L., O.B.E., T.D.** In 1965, the command was changed to a role in support of Royal Signals, Regular Forces, in B.A.O.R.—a taste of the B.A.O.R. to come.

Sergeant Norman Pope as he is to-day

When the new Reserve Army was formed in 1967, 12 Signal Group (V) took over the role with three T. & A.V.R. Regiments under the Command of **Brigadier P. D. Vaigncourt - Strallen. Norman Pope** worked very hard to ensure that every document of the change of command was completed according to the book, and then joined the new group with the rank of Sergeant. He has attended several exercises in Germany, as well as his normal volunteer parades at the Duke of York's H.Q.

Ever since it was re-formed in 1947, **Norman Pope** has served the T.A. as a civilian clerk as well as a soldier. He has shown the same enthusiasm for this aspect of his life as typified his Army career, and represented the T.A. Clerks on the C.S.C.A., serving them continuously until they were assimilated into the established Civil Service on the 1967 reorganisation. It was largely due to his representations that these clerks were able to count their seniority from the date they first started to work for the T.A.

He has never lost his love of music, and can play the cornet, tenor horn, French horn and violin. He has organised several dance bands, starting at Landikotal, North West Frontier, and again in Hyderabad (SIND).

His record is truly one of long and enthusiastic service, which has been recognised by the award of two Meritorious Service Certificates, the first being amongst the very first issue, which were presented by Lord Alexander of Tunis. He also had the Indian General Service Medal, the War Medal (1939-45) the Defence Medal, the Territorial Efficiency Medal and the new T. & A.V.R. Efficiency Medal.

Hockey Review

CORPS ENJOYS GOOD SEASON

Major N. Moss, Secretary of Corps Hockey, writes:

TOWARDS the end of last year an interim report was given in THE WIRE of the very satisfactory results of the Corps hockey team. Since that time the team has continued on the winning road, as the following summary shows:

Played 12, won 7, lost 3, drawn 2, goals for 25, against 14. These results exclude those at the Bournemouth Easter Festival, where three games were won and two lost, with a further ten goals for and six against. In view of these results, it was unfortunate that four games—against R.E.M.E., R.C.T., Newcastle University and Welbeck College—were cancelled due to inclement weather. Details not so far given in THE WIRE are given in the following paragraphs.

Royal Signals v. R.A.O.C. Won 2-1

This game was played at Blandford on the excellent red shale pitch and although the R.A.O.C. team included a number of Army class players the Corps side was never really in trouble. It is clear that right-back Sergeant Alan Coldwell after many seasons with the Corps side has not yet learned the meaning of demarcation disputes, for it was he who scored the first of the Corps' goals. This was the first game in which Corporal Mike How appeared for the Corps and he played continuously thereafter on the left wing, dazzling opposing defenders with his stick work.

Royal Signals v. Royal Engineers. Won 2-0

The Sappers are always a hard side to beat and this year's result was therefore particularly gratifying. Close marking of their wingers by Major Peter Gregory and Second-Lieutenant Ian Noble was largely responsible for this victory, which was ensured by goals by Sergeant Alan Coldwell (again!) and Major Noel Moss

Royal Signals v. Royal Artillery. Won 2-0

It was Second-Lieutenant Brian Chubb, fresh from his usual Friday night out, that clinched the third successive victory over the Gunners by scoring two fine goals. No doubt they will be out for revenge next year on their own ground.

Royal Signals v. R.M.C.S. Lost 5-1

This match was played at Shrivenham in February after a period of three months in which the Corps team had not played. This, and the absence of two or three regular players, no doubt accounted for a defeat which was the heaviest the Corps had sustained for some years. Shrivenham, however, who included Captain Jim McLuckie in their side, deserved their win and are obviously now a power to be reckoned with on the hockey field.

Royal Signals v. Royal Marines. Drawn 1-1

Clearly this was a better result than the preceding one, but it was nevertheless disappointing, for the Corps had complete mid-field superiority and lacked only finish. Lieutenant John Daglish opened the scoring in the first half with his seventh goal of the season, but the Marines came back with a well-taken equaliser in the second half.

Royal Signals v. Durham University. Lost 1-0

The Corps team played very well against a University side that included one current international and perhaps deserved a draw. They were handicapped by the absence of three regular players chosen for the Army and deserve credit for keeping the margin down to a single goal. Lance-Corporal John Boardman, the regular right winger this season, had a particularly good game.

Bournemouth Festival

Royal Signals have appeared twice previously at the Bournemouth Easter Festival, and until this year had only lost one game. Word of this record had obviously got around, and this Easter the team found itself against much stiffer opposition. Under these circumstances, to win three games was an excellent performance, and it was no discredit to lose the remaining two games. The full results were: v. South Staffs, won 5—0; v. Norfolk Rams, lost 0—4; v. Moonrakers (Wiltshire), won 3—0; v. Rebels, lost 0—1; and v. Nottingham, won 2—1.

Three Corps players were chosen for the Festival XI, and one of them **Jim McLuckie,** distinguished himself by trying to head the ball home!

Full time

The Festival provided a fitting climax to another good season by the Corps side, in which only a single game was lost to a military side and all the major Corps sides were convincingly beaten. **Sergeant Coldwell** continued to play for Combined Services. Seven players had Army Trials and three were chosen to play during the season.

Recommendations for the award of Corps colours have been sent to the Chairman of the Corps Games Club, and the names will be published in THE WIRE as soon as they are confirmed.

Players may now hang up their sticks for the summer season, but must make sure they are ready for the Corps Trials in September. It is high time we beat The Thistles.

Corps Squash Rackets, 1969-70 Season

Looking forward to next season with every confidence

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg writes:

HAVING been promoted from the Division III to the Division II League, we set our sights this year on winning our way into Division I. We knew the opposition was going to be tough, but we very nearly achieved it. This, then, is the measure of the success of Corps squash this last season.

The Division II League was played at Sandhurst over the weekend 12th-14th December. The teams were Prince of Wales's Division, R.A.M.C., R.A.E.C., R.E.M.E. and ourselves, each team playing the others. We fielded a very well balanced side consisting of **Captains Jim Storr, Mike Cornforth, Jim Pertwee, Jonathan Lowe, Peter Webster** and **Sergeant Michael Taylor.** We defeated R.E.M.E., R.A.M.C. and The Prince of Wales's Division, and in the final match on the last day lost by the odd game to R.A.E.C. This meant that as three teams had all won three and lost one match, the issue was decided on games and so we were pipped at the post by R.E.M.E. It couldn't have been a more exciting and tense finish and there can be no doubt that the strength of the Corps' team surprised the other teams. Unfortunately **Captain Pertwee** had to return to Shrivenham after the first match. Had he been available throughout there can have been little doubt that we would have won. In a competition in which all played well, I will only single out **Captain Jim Storr** who, playing No. 1, had to take on two Army players in **Beattie** and **Dewar.** His performance throughout the competition characterised by sound, crisp hitting of the ball and quite exceptional fitness was most impressive. This is his first year in representative squash and given plenty of competition he has every chance of representing the Army.

The detailed results were:

v. **R.E.M.E**—**Storr** beat **Roberts** 9—2, 9—2, 6—9, 9—4; **Pertwee** lost to **Lucas** 6—9, 1—9, 9—6, 2—9; **Cornforth** beat **Bonner-Morris** 10—8, 9—3, 9—3; **Lowe** lost to **Lancaster** 9—3, 7—9, 5—9, 3—9; **Taylor** beat **Soor** 9—4, 9—3, 9—2. **Won 3—2.**

v. **R.A.M.C.**—**Storr** lost to **Beattie** 1—9, 2—9, 1—9; **Cornforth** beat **Horrobin** 9—1, 2—9, 9—10, 9—1, 9—0; **Lowe** beat **Hopkins** 9—10, 9—5, 9—1, 4—9, 9—4; **Taylor** beat **Clements** 9—4, 9—5, 9—4; **Webster** beat **Edwards** 9—5, 9—1, 9—3. **Won 4—1.**

v. **Prince of Wales's Division**—**Storr** lost to **Dewar** 9—5, 9—9, 7—9, 8—10, 2—9; **Cornforth** lost to **Chignell** 1—9, 4—9, 9—10; **Lowe** beat **Gibbs** 9—0, 9—6, 9—0; **Taylor** beat **Little** 10—8, 3—9, 9—7, 9—0; **Webster** beat **Hewitt** 9—1, 9—2, 9—5. **Won 3—2.**

v. **R.A.E.C.**—**Storr** beat **Prothero** 0—9, 9—3, 9—0, 9—2; **Cornforth** lost to **McManus** 1—9, 7—9, 9—8, 7—9; **Lowe** lost to **Major** 1—9, 4—9, 6—9; **Taylor** beat **Reeves** 9—4, 9—5, 9—7; **Webster** lost to **Wright** 5—9, 9—1, 5—9, 0—9. **Lost 3—2.**

The main lesson learned from this competition was the need to have a nucleus of at least seven players to stand up to playing four matches over two days, and this underlines the need to find more talent.

Looking forward to next year with confidence

We have every reason to look forward to next year with confidence, particularly as **Major David Randle** is now back from N. Ireland. Nevertheless, we must not be complacent; the standard of squash is rising all the time and my bet is that next year's Division II League will be as keenly contested as it was this. It is very disappointing that so few players turn out for Corps' trials, and I hope that with the ever-increasing interest among all ranks in this excellent sport, we shall have a good turn-out for our next trials at Blandford next October.

Thanks are particularly due to **Captain Mike Cornforth** and **Jimmy Golding** for coping with all the administrative aspects of the season's activities.

Corps Colours were re-awarded to **Captain Cornforth** and **Sergeant Taylor** and awarded to **Captain Storr, Captain Lowe** and **Captain Webster.**

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Corps 3; Royal Corps of Transport 1

Played on 1st April in rough conditions. There were no goals up to half-time, but early in the second half R.C.T. got their only goal of the game. After this the Corps put the ball in the net three times and were clearly masters of the situation. Scorers for the Corps: **Lance-Corporal Walker, Corporal Miles** and **Signalman Duffy.** Corps team: **Corporal Owen** (8th Regiment), **Corporal Gilmour** (260 Squadron), **Corporal White** (8th Regiment), **Signalman Woon** (8th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Campbell** (216 Signal Squadron (Para), **Corporal Nelson** (8th Regiment); **Signalman Duffy** (216 Signal Squadron (Para), **Sergeant Dolby** (Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate), **Lance-Corporal Walker** (24th Regiment), **Lance-Corporal Denham** replaced by **Corporal Miles** (24th Regiment) and **Corporal Reynolds** (24th Regiment).

Late Sport

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MANCHESTER BRANCH

Mr. H. W. Young, Chairman of the branch, writes:

The branch is holding a Memorial Service and Rededication at Manchester Cathedral on Sunday, September 27th. An invitation to be present is extended to all ex-members of the Corps who live in the Manchester area, as well as serving members, who are either on leave or are on location near Manchester.

It is particularly requested that names of bereaved families are notified to us so that invitations can be sent out; information is also required of any of the hundred Corps men who went out to the Middle East in 1942 with the code initials R.O. A.X.Z., particularly those who were attched to 202 Guards Brigade under **Lieutenant West** (now retired as **Lieutenant-Colonel West**).

All information, please, to: **Mr. H. W. Young**, c/o 42nd Signal Squadron, Norman Road, Manchester.

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An Apprentice Radio Amateur

A/T Lance-Corporal C. Muriel

A/T Lance - Corporal Muriel, of Phillips Squadron, at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, has achieved the distinction of gaining his Radio Amateur's Licence, Class 'A' at the unusually early age of 19.

He came to the College in September, 1967, and has just completed his eighth term of training as a Radio Technician. He is a former pupil of Simon Langton School, Canterbury, where, apart from gaining five 'O' level passes, his interest in amateur radio was first aroused. This hobby he was able to pursue with the College's thriving Amateur Radio Club, G3 HKR, from which he regularly transmits in term time. During vacations he operates from his Northampton home under the call sign G3 ZDM.

Since coming to the College, **Lance-Corporal Muriel** has added to his 'O' level passes in mathematics, engineering science and physics; he has also gained distinctions in City and Guilds maths 'A,' maths 'B,' Radio and Line Transmission 'A' and Principles and Telecommunications 'A'; he has also passed 01 towards his Ordinary National Certificate.

All this, of course, helped greatly towards his radio amateur's licence, but there remained the problem of the G.P.O. test in morse—not part of a technician's normal curriculum. This was solved by **Mr. William Bevan,** an instructor in Technician Wing, who gave up much of his spare time to teaching **Lance-Corporal Muriel.** On 21st January, the latter sat—and passed—the G.P.O. Morse Test at Hull Coastguard Station. The award of his Class 'A' Radio Amateur's Licence followed in February.

A/T Lance-Corporal Muriel's activities at the College have not been confined to the academic and technical. He has made five crossings of the Lyke Wake Walk (40 miles on foot across the Yorkshire Moors from Osmotherly to Ravenscar, sometimes sponsored to raise funds for charity. The last of his crossings was a solo effort, on 14th-15th February, when he had to survive a full scale, unpredicted blizzard.

He is also a regular member of the College's cross-country team and was the only member of this to qualify for the Army Junior Championships at Aldershot in February, when illness prevented him running.

By way of contrast, he also represents the College at cycling, specialising in the 25-mile road time trial; he qualified for last summer's Army Junior Cycling Championships, held at Chepstow.

Finally, he has recently been elected to join 'The Foresters' —the College's talented folk group—in which he plays the harmonica.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

One of the Month's Cases

CORPORAL accidentally killed whilst serving in Northern Ireland, leaving a widow and baby son. The widow has now been given a council house, and the Association made her a grant of £100 for furnishings. Her letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I WOULD like to thank the Association for their very generous gift of £100 towards the cost of my furniture. I am very, very grateful. The money will be most helpful to me, and I really can't express in full how pleased I am. I would also like to thank you for your very kind letter.

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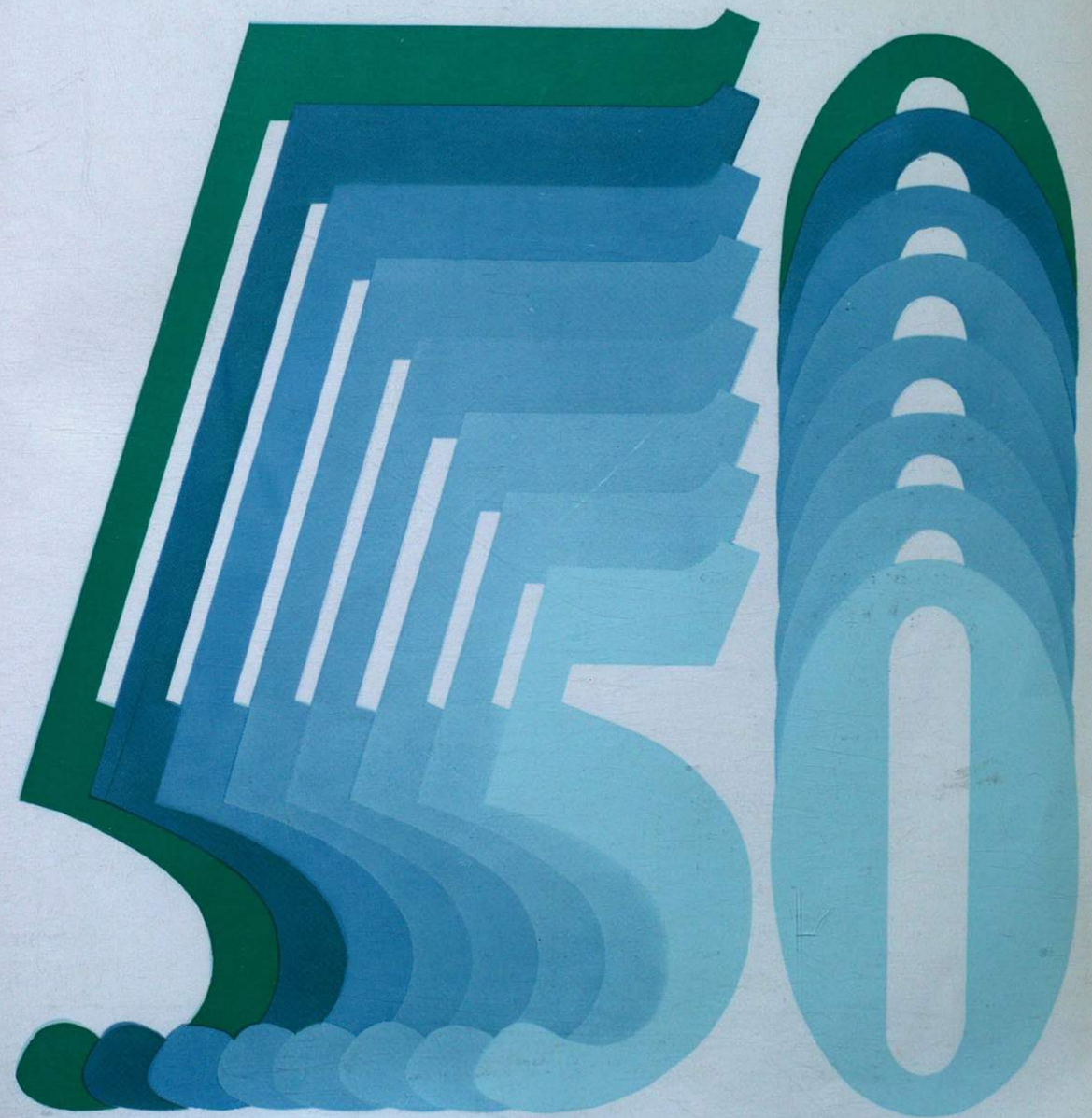
Jubilee | 1920-70
Wire



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3) London: Vacancies also occur from time to time for Class 1 Technicians of all categories to work in our London Head Office on a career basis, especially for those with experience of telephone and telex exchanges, teleprinters, etc.

Write for application form giving brief details of experience, qualifications, age and availability date to: Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Dept. A483/355, Cable and Wireless Limited, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1.

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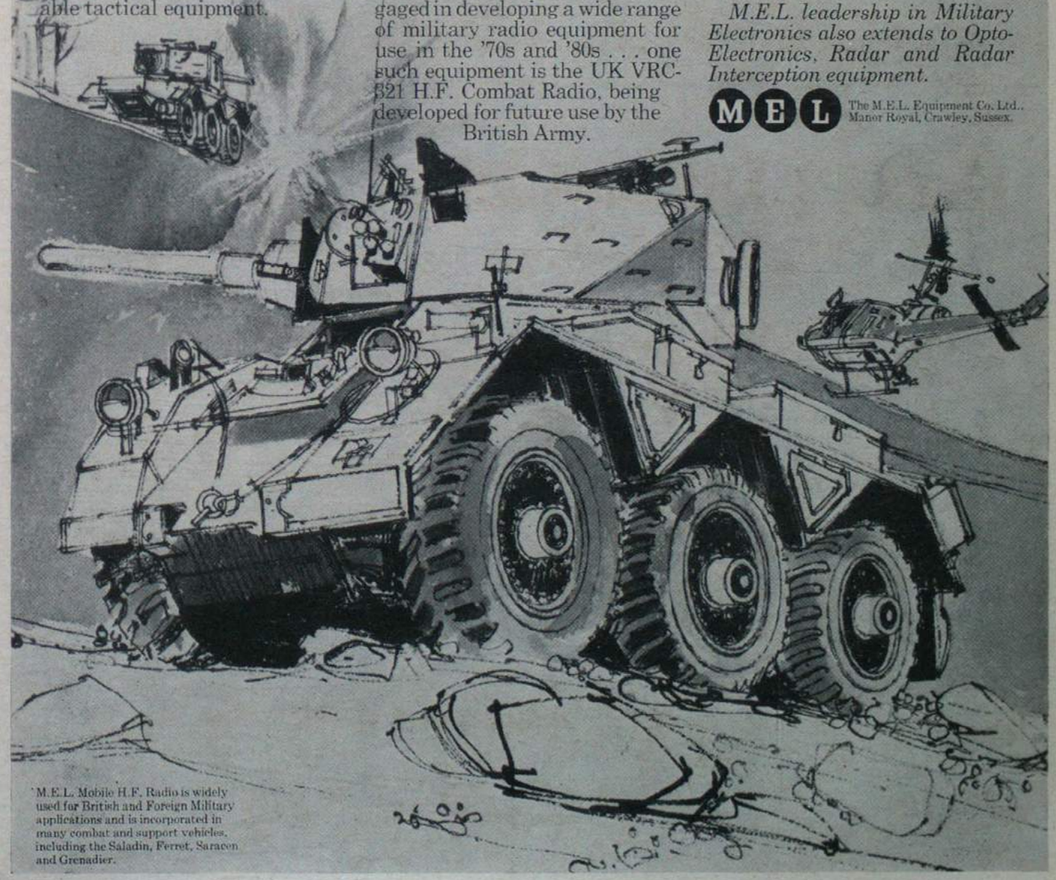

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50 Years Old!

The WIRE celebrates its own Jubilee along with The Corps

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

JUNE/JULY • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 6**

Below is reproduced in its original format Page 1, Volume 1, No. 1 of the very first 'Wire' ever published. Today, 50 years later, we publish the 547th monthly edition of the same magazine.

To mark the 50th birthday of the Corps this month, as well as our own increasing age, we felt that a modest celebration would not be out of place. Accordingly, this edition features a special outer cover designed for us by Miles Hutchins, son of Brigadier Peter Hutchins of the Corps, as well as a number of articles specially contributed by various units of the Corps.

In particular we appreciate very much the message reproduced on the opposite page from Major-General Sir William Scott, the Corps' first Master of Signals, who has known 'The Wire' since its infant days. We would pay a very sincere tribute to Sapper G. E. Palin and C.S.M. W. Butler whose vision and dedication carried 'The Wire' through from 1920 right up to December, 1941, when war conditions forced 'The Wire' to stop publishing and to those who took on the task when 'The Wire' started again in November, 1946.

In the words of Sapper Palin, we sincerely trust that 'The Wire' will continue to afford you some amusement as well as creating a greater feeling of 'esprit de Corps' but as he so rightly says we must rely upon you, our readers, to co-operate with us in making the project a success.

This you have done most faithfully for 50 years—and no doubt you will continue to do so.

THE WIRE

The Camp Journal of the Signal Service Training Centre

Maresfield Park, Sussex

VOL. 1.—No. 1 FEBRUARY 20th, 1920. PRICE—SIXPENCE

Editor: G. E. PALIN, *Sapper* R.E.

Financial Secretary: C.S.M. W. BUTLER, R.E. *Adverts.:* G. PHILLIPS, *Sapper* R.E.

All Communications should be addressed to—
THE EDITOR, *The Wire*, Headquarters S.S.T.C., Maresfield Park, Sussex.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IT is with the greatest confidence that I launch this little Journal among you, in the hope of affording some slight amusement, and of creating a greater feeling of *esprit de corp* among the members of the Signal Service—the eyes, ears, and brains of the great little British Army. I fully realise the impediments that lie in my path, and that it is not going to be "roses all the way"—do I not know that soldiers are the most heartless critics in the world?—but I am relying upon you, the readers of this little Journal, to co-operate with me in making the project a success.

I would suggest that each Company in the Training Centre should appoint a representative to collect matter for publication—such as legitimate "grouses," suggestions, and matter of a humorous nature either in verse or prose.

Everything submitted for publication will receive the keenest consideration, and I rely upon you all to assist me in making THE WIRE a clean, healthy and interesting Journal. The size of the paper depends entirely upon the sales, and the number and quality of the literary contributions received. Sport, of course, will take a prominent place in its pages, and I should be glad if the various Company members of the Sports Committee will acquaint me of the various fixtures of Football and Hockey matches, and supply me with short reports of the different games. Matter for publication should be written on one side of the paper only, and forwarded under cover to the Editor, Sapper G. E. Palin, Headquarters S.S.T.C.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS

Below we published a number of Greeting Messages received by The Wire many of which look back over the years — not without a certain nostalgia

A message to The Wire

from

Major General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.
Master of Signals

IN thinking of 1970 as the Jubilee Year of Royal Signals, some of us may forget that it is also the 50th Anniversary of the first issue of 'The Wire'. 'The Wire' indeed is the senior of the two, having been born in February, 1920, four months before the birth of the Corps. Since then it has appeared regularly every month except during the war years, when publishing became impossible — a splendid record.

'The Wire' sets a high standard for Regimental magazines and is one of which we can be justly proud. Many of our older comrades who, like me, can remember the first issue and have seen 'The Wire' develop over the years, will have remarked what an important part it has played in building up that family spirit which is such a feature of our Corps.

A little later this year I shall hand over my duties as Master of Signals to General Bradley and so end my 50 years of service with the Corps. I would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye to all Royal Signals, past and present, and to thank all readers of 'The Wire' for their support given to it over the years. I shall hope to meet many old readers at the special celebrations being held this Jubilee Year and send my warmest good wishes to those who for any reason are unable to come.

From the School of Signals, Blandford

THE Commandant and all ranks of the School of Signals send greetings and congratulations to the Editor and staff, the printers and publishers of 'The Wire,' on achieving 50 years of publication.

This is undoubtedly an occasion for looking back over 50 years in the history of the School of Signals, and comparing our humble beginnings with our present established position.

Our own 50th anniversary will not take place until 1st December, 1970, for it was on that date in 1920 that the Courses Battalion of the Signal Service Training Centre, R.E., at Maresfield Camp, Sussex, officially became the School of Signals. It was commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel O. C. Mordaunt, D.S.O.**, Somerset Light Infantry, and had an establishment of 14 officers, 24 W.O. and N.C.O. instructors, including an R.S.M.(I) and an R.S.M., seven N.C.O.s, two trumpeters and 54 Signalmen for administration. Founder members included some well-known names, amongst them **Captain** and **Bt. Major H. C. B. Wemyss, D.S.O., M.C.**, R.E., **Lieutenant R. F. H. Nalder**, East Surrey Regiment, **Lieutenant H. E. Rance**, Worcestershire Regiment, **Lieutenant C. M. F. White**, R.F.A.

'Sergeant-Major MacFlap'—the forerunners of the present Y.o.S.

The R.S.M.(I) post was held in 1919 by **Sergeant-Major McMenamin,** the original inventor of the flap shutter for visual signalling and, in consequence, was sometimes irreverently referred to as 'Sergeant-Major MacFlap. It is not clear whether he transferred in 1920. He was undoubtedly the forerunner of our present-day Yeoman of Signals. Another interesting appointment was that of Officer-in-Charge Pigeons.

At that time the following courses were under instruction: 71st R.S.I. Course (13 weeks); 31st Refresher Course (6 weeks); Nos. 1 and 2 'Q' Courses, 12 months (these had been introduced for officers desirous of secondment to Signals). The Foreman of Signals Courses was added in 1923.

The 'Q' Course was extended

In 1924, the 'Q' Course was extended to 18 months to cater for officers transferring to and directly commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals. The syllabus makes very interesting reading. It included three months' drill and equitation at the Depot Battalion, flag drill, reading morse on flag, lamp and buzzer, and semaphore. Technical subjects were in two groups, E1 and E2. E1 included magnetism, DC electricity, telegraphy and telephony. E2 comprised AC electricity, W/T, charging engines and dynamos, and secondary batteries. A third instructional group taught cable (airline and permanent line), Signal Office procedure and Signal tactics. A further three months were spent on an R.S.I. Course to gain an Instructor's Certificate, and a final six weeks on an M.T. Course with the R.A.S.C. at Aldershot. Our present 10 weeks' 'Q' Course seems pretty tame in comparison.

In 1925—the move to Catterick

The School, as part of the Signal Training Centre, moved to Catterick in August/September, 1925. We note, rather smugly, that training suffered a little disruption in *that* move due mainly to problems encountered in dismantling and re-erecting equipment. H.Q. Mess was far from complete and the Officers' Club was used for some time as the S.T.C. Mess. The three advance party subalterns were the original occupants of 'Virgin Villas.'

The change from horse to M.T.

The School continued with courses from 1925 to 1939. The change from horses to M.T. had some effect, but new equipment was hard to come by. Much effort was put into improving the landscape of Messines Lines, both by the H.Q. Mess and the School, with privet hedges, rose gardens, tennis courts, roads and paths.

Inevitably, the war years brought increased activity, new equipments and techniques. 'Q' Courses were abolished, as all officers came through O.C.T.U. Many other courses were introduced to cater for the special needs of the time. R.S.I. Courses continued under a specially-formed Regimental Wing. In 1943 the School came directly under the Director of Military Training at the War Office, and ceased to be part of the S.T.C.

The School grows in importance and standing

The Commandant had been upgraded in 1932 to Colonel and with further reorganisation in 1945, became a Brigadier, an indication of the increased importance and standing of the School of Signals.

In 1945 the assumed responsibility for Signal training in the S.T.C. and O.C.T.U., as well as the School. This did not prove a satisfactory arrangement and was abandoned in 1948.

1948 saw the transfer of regimental signals training from Catterick to the other arms schools in the south and the incorporation of the Royal Signals O.C.T.U. as the Officer Training Wing, which, with the remaining Royal Signals Wing and H.Q., formed the post-war School of Signals.

'Q' Courses were reintroduced, but were found to be unsuited to changing requirements. Young officer training was split into two courses: a Subalterns' Part I Course at the O.T.W. of three months, and a Part II Course at the R.S.W. of 12-15 months. The O.T.W. also continued the training of National Service Officers until 1957, when this function was transferred to Mons Officer Cadet School at Aldershot and the Wing was disbanded.

Once again the 'Q' Course was resuscitated, the post-war Long Telecommunications Course became the present 'TE' Course and Foreman of Signals training, which had been divided into two parts returned to being the Foreman of Signals Course.

Two significant additions to the School curriculum in this period were the introduction of Yeoman of Signals and ADPS training. A computer was installed in 1962 and a new ADPS Course introduced for officers of all arms and services. No. 1 Yeoman of Signals Course assembled in January of the same year.

The move to Blandford—a remarkable achievement

Since its move to Catterick in 1925, the School had been 'out on a limb,' and efforts to return it nearer the centre of military gravity had been continuously pursued.

At last, in 1960, a permanent site, at Blandford Camp, in Dorset, was selected and plans to build suitable accommodation were made. These included a new H.Q. Officers' Mess and barracks for 30th Signal Regiment, the existing occupants of the camp.

In 1967, Phase I of the Blandford re-build was completed. The main move was accomplished between January and May without any break in instruction, a remarkable feat, when one considers the fact that the School had been static at Catterick for almost 42 years.

The School of Signals today

Today, the School comprises a Headquarters, two intructional wings, a Combat Development and Trials Wing and an administrative wing. Sharing the School accommodation is the recently-formed Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre (a direct outcome of the introduction of ADP Training in 1962).

The School is responsible for young officers' initial signal training and the higher technical and tactical training of officers and senior N.C.O. specialists of the Corps. Additional responsibilities include refresher training for senior officers of other arms, and signal training for the Cadet Forces and Reserve Army. Courses are also run for signal officers of other armies. There are, in all, some 29 different types of courses run at the School, in addition to those run at the DADPTC.

The accommodation at Blandford is a far cry from the old 1914-1918 huts and makeshift buildings at Catterick, which served for so many years.

The main School building occupies an area of between 10 and 11 acres and contains a 300-line telephone exchange serving the whole camp; offices for the staff of the H.Q. and wings; specialist training rooms for voice procedure; teleprinter, typing and morse training; a switchboard training room; tape relay centre; laboratories and demonstration rooms for basic electronics, radio and other communications systems, engineering and operating. In addition, each instructional wing has several general purpose lecture rooms. The main auditorium, the Princess Mary Hall, is for general use, and is fitted with stage, control and projection room and many other modern theatre facilities. It will accommodate 137 in comfortable tiered seating. The Reproduction Centre and Drawing Office have facilities for production of large quantities of precis, programmes, illustrations, vufoils, etc. The School Library is on two floors and houses a comprehensive stock of publications and text books. The building also houses the computer centre of the DADPTC. A transmitter and receiver station are located elsewhere in the camp.

To conclude our history of the last 50 years, here is a list of the Commandants: 1919, **Lieutenant-Colonel O. C. Mordaunt, D.S.O.**; 1924, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Bald, D.S.O.**; 1926, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Osborne, D.S.O.**; 1930, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. I. Allen, D.S.O.**; 1932, **Colonel G. G. Rawson. O.B.E., M.C.**; 1936, **Colonel R. A. C. Henderson, M.C.**; 1940, **Colonel C. P. Prescot**; 1942, **Colonel T. B. Gravely, O.B.E.**; 1945, **Colonel W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O.**; 1945, **Brigadier R. T. O. Cary, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.**; 1946, **Brigadier F. S. Straight, C.B.E., M.C.,**; 1948, **Brigadier G. S. O'N. Power, C.B.E.**; 1961, **Brigadier C. G. Moore, O.B.E.**; 1954, **Brigadier W. R. Smijth-Windham, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C.**; 1957, **Brigadier R. G. Yolland, O.B.E.**; 1960, **Brigadier A. F. McGill, O.B.E.**; 1963, **Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E.**; 1966, **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.BE**; and 1968, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley.**

From Signal Support Group, H.Q. A.F.N.E.

LOYAL greetings on this momentous occasion come from the Detachment Royal Signals, located at Oslo in Norway, to our illustrious Corps.

The history of the Detachment appears to start in 1954 when it was formed as part of a multi-national unit to provide communications for the North European Command of N.A.T.O.

The first recorded O.C. was **Major (Lucky) Fenton** who, according to local legend, ran the Signal Despatch Service in winter using red-nosed reindeers. This species was used apparently because of the built-in homing instinct!

Local achievement throughout the years by members of the Detachment have been many, varying from communicating, Saga route marches, fishing, langlauf, ski-ing, shooting, adventure training, bird watching to conventional sports.

It seems appropriate on this occasion to congratulate the present Editor of THE WIRE. Under his guidance and direction the publication has been modernised without losing its character. Long may he and his Staff continue to function, and heaven help anyone who suggests changing the name of THE WIRE.

Finally, all ranks of the Detachment send congratulations to the Royal Corps of Signals on reaching its Golden Jubilee.

From H.Q. Army Strategic Command

In this, the Corps 50th year, how do the old soldier's memoirs compare with those today?

How many times have you heard these postings described by old soldiers—Palestine, Africa, Egypt, Italy, India, etc? Many times, I dare say, especially over a pint in the Mess or maybe whilst 'bulling' those irremovable 'pimples' on those monsters called boots in the barrack room. The favourite boast of all old soldiers, of course, was the limited amount of time spent in 'Blighty'—and that usually in transit! They MUST have been the GOOD OLD DAYS—or were they?

Like the sound of these? British Honduras, Caribbean, Malaysia, Gibraltar, Anguilla, Norway, Northern Ireland? These are some of the postings and places currently being mentioned by the young soldiers serving in Army Strategic Command.

World-wide requests for peace-keeping troops are met from this Command; a continuous hum of activity is sensed immediately upon setting foot inside the area—no need to stress upon you the degree of versatility required by all our 177 officers and 2,049 soldiers from the Corps to fill the needs of an emergency call for help. Quick moves to countries where conditons vary from Arctic to tropic, where differing tensions, emotions and the need for reassurance demand the help of well-trained, well-disciplined and good-natured troops. Army Strategic Command is not the place for a quiet life.

Brigadier Geoffrey Proudman, M.B.E., is the indefatigable C.S.O.; **Major Ralph Plant** looks after operations plans and exercises; **Major (Tfc.) Pat Massey** keeps us secure and watches over trade training in the intervals of managing Army football; the rest of the work is done by our old soldier 'Puck'—**Major Geoffrey Paris,** who is retiring shortly. Last, but not least, a welcome to our new Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant J. C. Tait** and his family.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ONE AND ALL!

From the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate

ALTHOUGH, or perhaps because, we are a comparatively young member of the family of the Corps we are not unaware of its background and the tremendous advances in the 50 years of its life.

Major Bob Edwards, our T.S.O.—who considers himself a younger member of the family, not having joined man's service until April, 1928, and having served in uniform for exactly 40 years—is a mine of information on the development of the Corps. We are able to trace Corps history from the lamp DSSR, Helio, Flag, Shutter, Horse, 'A' set, 'C' set, 120 watt set and No. 1 set through the years to the sophisticated equipment of the present.

Those of us who are interested—and there are many—can look at photographs and hear about life, over the years, on the North West Frontier (Waziristan 1930), Palestine, the Desert Rats (he was one of the originals), the Gold Coast, the Canal Zone during the Neguib/Nasser problems, and other places—such as Northern Ireland amongst other home stations.

We have learnt—and are still learning—of the problems and challenges met and overcome through wise leadership and initiative at all levels, and the problems which face the Corps in this modern age; we understand the reasons for what has been achieved, and why the Corps has such a high standing within the Army. We know of such members as **Stonely, Cotterell, Stewart, Rawson, Colem Spencer** and many others who have put the Corps on the map of the world of sport. We know, too, of the Association—that splendid organisation which does so much for those who contributed to the making of the Corps tradition, and still finds time to help the less fortunate members of other Arms of the Service.

It is with pride in the past and optimism for the future of our Corps that we make our contribution to the training of young men who will leave us imbued with the spirit to carry on the great tradition which they have inherited, by their devotion to duty and the application of skills without which a modern army could not survive.

One plea we would make—preserve the name THE WIRE; it is part of the tradition we have inherited.

From C.R. Signals, Hong Kong

Lest we Forget

Hong Kong — December 1941

By Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart, H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong, B.F.P.O. 1

IN our 50 years as a Corps, we have done many things. Mostly, in the war histories and reminiscences of great events what we have done, and how we have done it attracts little notice, because battle honours are not for us. We are people who must be in every battle: whether a battle is won or lost is largely due to our efficiency. Sometimes we can be efficient, and gallant, and persevering, and still we lose. This is what happened to our forebears in Hong Kong.

On 8th December, 1941, when the Japanese attacked the Colony, the strength of Signal units in the Colony was:

	Officers	*Other Ranks*
Royal Signals	7	177
Royal Canadian Corps of Signals ...	1	32
Fortress Signals, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps ...	2	13
	10	222

On Christmas Day, when the Colony finally surrendered, one officer and 18 other ranks were dead: three were missing, and 12 more were wounded.

By the time of Liberation, in August, 1945, a further two officers and 74 other ranks had died, some from starvation and dysentry, most when the prison ship 'Lisbon Maru' was torpedoed. The Japanese battened the hatches on the P.O.W.s before abandoning ship.

Nearly half the Corps' soldiers in Hong Kong in World War II died. Some of them did so in battle, against an enemy superior in numbers and equipment, with complete air and sea supremacy. They were the lucky ones, who died doing the job they were trained for, for at no time in the battle did essential command communications fail, even though most of them ran in UG cables, and repairs entailed jointing under observed artillery fire. Right up to the end, radio communication was maintained direct with the United Kingdom.

For those still serving, and who may not have been shot at, this is what it means to keep communications 'through.'

"DR runs along the exposed roads on the north side of the island were dangerous . . . **Corporal Speller** and **Signalmen Damant** and **Thomas** made many of these trips as volunteers, and both Signalmen were killed when machine-gunners caught them on an open stretch of road." (These men were Royal Canadian Corps of Signals).

Lieutenant-Colonel Levett, O.B.E., at that time C.S.O., China Command, in his diary of events, has written:

14th December.—"At 16.30 hours there was heavy shelling at Magazine Gap. Three shells fell on the main cable route linking Fortress H.Q. and units south of the Gap. The break occurred right in the centre of the Gap and in full view of the enemy. Work started at dusk . . . Even then the work had to be done without lights, except that of a torch for the actual cleaning and jointing of the cables. The first cable was repaired at 23.30 hours and the remainder came in during the night." (195 circuits were restored by this line party, who had been without reasonable rest for seven days at this stage of the battle).

18th December.—"Heavy mortar fire on Lyemun Gap had broken the cable to the important Lyemun Harbour searchlight, and a line party was sent to deal with it. In passing the Lyeman Gap I stopped to have a look at the cable break, and then, continuing my journey, had barely gone 300 yards down the road when a concentration of mortar fire came down on the party. Fortunately only one man was hit."

20th December.—"By nightfall on this date Eastern Brigade H.Q. at Wong Nei Chong had been surrounded. I spoke to the Signal Officer (**Captain Billings**) at 22.00 hours on the phone. He, with others, were locked inside the shelters with a ring of enemy troops around them. Some of them made a dash to break through . . . some succeeded in getting away, among them **Captain Billings,** who was wounded. A number, however, were unable to break out, and many were killed there." (Among these was the Canadian Brigade Commander, who died fighting).

20th December.—"A 10in. shell found its way into the Fortress Plotting Room, where the main Signal panel was located, but failed to expode."

24th December.—"That day, both Magazine Gap and The Peak suffered badly from shellfire and low-level bombing attacks, and the communications suffered also. **Lieutenant Paterson,** with his line party, were in the area, and did excellent work under trying circumstances. They succeeded in keeping the lines through pretty well, but it was a **heart-breaking job.**"

25th December.—"At 12.30 hours I visited the Eastern Brigade H.Q., now at a house on the Peak. Whilst there, a heavy attack was made, using incendiary bombs. **Sergeant Green** came along for orders. He reported that the cable lying on the ground was being burnt by the fire that had started in the undergrowth, and his detachment was in danger of being cut off by a ring of fire . . . On my way back, passing through Magazine Gap, I met units withdrawing from their positions, and by the time I reached Fortress H.Q., realised that our signal work was finished. So, leaving the minimum of men in Fortress H.Q., I sent the rest over to join the (Signal) Company. Shortly afterwards, I followed them. I found that **Major Hayes** had prepared a very good defence system, the men were in very good heart. At 15.30 hours, however, I received orders from the G.O.C. to surrender."

This was a battle long ago, before most of the serving Corps was born. It was a defeat. Nevertheless, it was a defeat which had its own dignity and pride, and not the least credit goes to our predecessors, many now dead, who showed what it means to be a Signalman, and when the task ended, prepared to fiight and die as Infantrymen.

In May, 1969, The Hong Kong Signal Company met again, at a reunion in London. Nearly thirty years after the battle these men still have the pride which comes of a job well done to the bitter end. Now that we are 50 years old, as a Corps, it is as well to remember that our inspiration doesn't only come from El Alamein and D-Day and the days of victory, but from the bitter periods of defeat and captivity. No matter what the circumstances, our job is always to be 'Through.'

From 2nd Division Signal Regiment

2nd Division Signal Regiment warmly greets all Golden Jubilee readers but extends a special hello to those who have formerly served in the Division.

In preparing these notes it has been fascinating to compare early days of the Division with those of today. We have come a long way since the first Commanding Officer in 1912, **Captain Sir Thomas Thompson,** had all the horses in the unit given names beginning with 'T.' **Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Thompson,** the current Commanding Officer, has not yet revived this custom.

As a unit of 1 (BR) Corps the Regiment provides the communications for the Division and has the unique task of administering the Divisional Headquarters at a distance of 13 miles in Lubbecke. Equipment changes have, of course, been traumatic. It would appear that only the 'First Field Dressing' remains the same on the equipment side.

From the earliest days the Regiment had a distinguished sports record. Today the sports continue but the fashions and emphasis have changed. Ski-ing, canoeing, judo, mountaineering, aqua diving are all firmly established in the Regiment today. The traditional sports continue and golf is on the incline with the opening of the eight-hole course in May.

The Regiment even has its own Folk Singing Group, The Gentle Folk. These four soldiers have been selected as one of two groups to represent B.A.O.R. in the Army Top of the Groups contest in London this month. One wonders what the signaller of the twenties would have to say on that?

2nd Division Signal Regiment in Birdwood Barracks 1970 is a far cry from 2 Division Signal Company Royal Signals in Stanhope Lines, Aldershot. What is not so different is the extract taken from a censored letter describing an incident in the Great War.

'At last the fearsome journey ended,
Line tests through and signals splendid.'

From 9th Signal Regiment

THE Commanding Officer and all ranks of 9th Signal Regiment (Radio) send greetings and best wishes to all members of the Corps both past and present and, in particular, to those ex-members of the Regiment, Company and Group.

The Regiment has had one of the longest continuous histories of the regular units of the Corps. It came into being as 2nd Wireless Company formed in Palestine in 1923 after absorbing two sections of a wireless company which had performed specialised duties in the First World War.

2nd Wireless Company remained at Sarafand until the end of the Second World War. In 1945, the Company was expanded by merging with 2nd Special Wireless Group and became known as 2nd Special Wireless Regiment.

With the ending of the Palestine mandate in 1947, the Regiment left Sarafand and in June of that year moved to Cyprus where it was redesignated 2nd Wireless Regiment.

On 1st September, 1959, the title was again changed to its present-day form, that of 9th Signal Regiment (Radio).

Throughout this time the Company/Regiment has had 26 changes of Commanding Officers. One of these Commanding Officers deserves particular mention. In 1940 **Major H. Winterbotham** was commanding the 2nd Wireless Company. From there in 1942 he moved on promotion to 2nd Special Wireless Group, which he commanded for two years. In 1949 he returned but this time to command 2nd Wireless Regiment for two years. So over a span of eleven years, **Lieutenant-Colonel H. Winterbotham, O.B.E.,** was a Commanding Officer three times. He retired from the Corps in 1956.

From 1st Division Signal Regiment

ON this special 50th anniversary of 'The Wire,' the Commanding Officer, Officers, Warrant Officers and Soldiers of this Regiment send their best wishes to all members of the Corps, and especially to those ex-members of this unit.

Being one of the oldest Regiments in the Corps, it seems an appropriate occasion to look at our 'pedigree.'

Our origins trace back to 1st Divisional Telegraph Company, founded in April, 1907, and commanded by Lieutenant H. Clementi-Smith, R.E. In 1910 it became 1st Divisional Signal Company, and in 1913, 1st Signal Company.

In June, 1921, we became 1st Divisional Signals, although it was to be October, 1923, before the Regiment was commanded by a Royal Signals Officer, Major (Bt. Lt.-Col.) R. H. Willan, D.S.O., M.C. (who, in fact, took over from a K.O.Y.L.I. officer!).

We kept the same title until almost the end of the war, when, in 1944, we became 1st Infantry Divisional Signals, and in 1946 the word 'Regiment' was added to that title. 1958 and 1959 saw minor variations, until 1st January, 1965, when as 1st Signal Regiment we, in common with other Signal Regiments 'integrated' and took our present title.

What will it be next . . . and when? For surely another change must come sooner or later.

What has been the object of listing the perhaps somewhat dusty history above? It is simply this: that although titles, equipment and uniform may change, the soldier, signaller or communicator does not, as perhaps the two pictures below illustrate.

Our loyal greetings to everyone in the Corps, and good luck for the next 50 years.

Signallers circa 1920

Signallers circa 1970

From 16th Signal Regiment

IN preparing these notes for this edition of THE WIRE I attempted to do a little research into the Regiment's history.

Our history has been an involved one. Dates of course are always difficult to ascertain, but I was able to pin-point at least one. That is the date of the formation of 2 L. of C. Signal Regiment. I was able to do this by taking this date from the personal documents of **Major 'Dickie' Armstrong,** who has served with the Regiment under its various guises no less than three times. 16th Signal Regiment as such was formed in 1959 and found its home in Krefeld. Our present barracks, Bradbury Barracks, are compact and probably one of the best laid-out in B.A.O.R. All our amenities, cinema, swimming pool, Y.M.C.A. and NAAFI are within our perimeter. The barracks themselves are of the Hitler type; the avenues of trees and the green spaces make it look particularly attractive at this time of year.

Our role has slowly evolved as we have collected commitments from ASSU and NORTHAG. We are now responsible for all static telegraph communications in B.A.O.R. Our mobile Squadrons are able to continue to maintain a chain of communications from the field, taking over from the static Squadrons. The emphasis on the mobile Squadrons is gradually becoming stressed, and the problems of providing communications with field equipment and vehicles are becoming acute. We now look forward to new equipment in the near future.

Spring seems to have come with a bang! With it a spirit of optimism and hope. Our thoughts look forward to our major exercise of the year, 'Summer Sales,' to a happy and successful year to us in this Regiment. In the same way we would wish the Corps the very best of everything in this its Jubilee Year. Good luck, good fortune and the very best wishes for the future.

From 19th Signal Regiment

Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert writes:

IT is particularly poignant, in this year of the Corps' 50th Anniversary, to produce this Regiment's contribution to the Special Issue of THE WIRE. Next year will unfortunately see the demise of 19th Signal Regiment which has been in existence in the Far East since its formation in 1943, about half the Corps' life.

There is a distinct lack of information on the history of the Regiment from 1943 to 1960 and I would be grateful if any past members of the Regiment would write to me with any information that may be useful in compiling an accurate Regimental History.

Burma days

Some research has been carried out and it appears that our forerunners were 7th Indian Air Formation Signal Regiment who first established Wing Troops at Tengah, Kallang, Seletar and Changi. 19th Signal Regiment moved to Singapore from Burma in mid-1946 and gradually assumed the airfield responsibilities. In the main our task was the restoration of the airfield communication system, parts of which were of Japanese origin, and the build-up, with normal underground and overhead cabling, of the airfield communication requirements. Obviously as the years went by, and the sophistication of landing aids, radars and transmitters increased so did the cabling projects to provide the linking land-lines. In other words the Regiment was a conventional Air Formation Signal Regiment. In 1947 the bulk of the Regiment was based in Singapore with detachments in Ceylon and Hong Kong.

Malayanisation

The significant change in the Regimental structure occurred in 1949 when the Regiment was Malayanised, with the inclusion of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Eurasian tradesmen. It is these tradesmen, known as Locally Enlisted Personnel (L.E.P.), who have been the back-bone of this Regiment over the past 20 years and it is indeed very sad to see them leaving the Service of the Queen and the Corps. They have served us loyally and faithfully and I would like to pay them a public tribute in this special edition of THE WIRE. It would be invidious to try to single out any particular individuals so I would say to them all, wherever they find themselves after our withdrawal from Singapore, thank you for your loyalty, your technical ability and skills, your wholehearted participation in all sporting and Regimental activities and above all your most cheerful disposition.

New locations

The next phase worthy of mention is the period 1959 to 1966. During this time we left Ceylon but took under command the Troop on Gan Island which today, though much smaller, is still part of the Regiment. The Hong Kong detachment was the next to be transferred from the Regiment but in 1962, with Confrontation, detachments found themselves in Labuan, Kuching and Tawau in the conventional Air Formation role. Also in this period the exchanges on Singapore Island became automatic and on R.A.F. stations the maintenance of these became our responsibility.

The next, and possibly most significant change came in 1969 when, under Ristacomm, we took over the responsibility from the R.A.F. for the Microwave and Tropospheric Scatter Systems linking R.A.F. stations within Singapore Island and to Penang. The Regiment's tasks then fell broadly into two groups; the continued standard airfield commitment of providing land-lines for R.A.F. terminal equipment and the maintenance of all exchanges and telephones and the new task of inter-R.A.F. station communications over the Microwave and Tropospheric Scatter Systems.

We find ourselves now in 1970 with R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and 1 Squadron based at Changi. 1 Squadron has under command at Changi the Airfield Troop and the Microwave Troop, which in turn has 11 stations on the Island and one each at Penang and Butterworth. 2 Squadron, soon to close, has its S.H.Q. at Seletar with Airfield Troops at Seletar and Tengah and the small Troop at Gan.

The Air Support Regiment, which is our new title, has had a varied and interesting history in this part of the world. Perhaps now, under Ristacomm, it is even more fascinating, certainly more technical than ever before. This makes our demise in 1971 the harder to bear.

I hope that erstwhile Air Formation communicators will read this small contribution with interest and perhaps some nostalgia. To ex-members of this Regiment in particular, and to the Corps as a whole, we in 19th Signal Regiment send our greetings on this the Corps 50th Anniversary.

From 21st Signal Regiment

ALL ranks of 21st Signal Regiment send greetings to the editorial staff of THE WIRE and members of the Corps everywhere, with best wishes for the next 50 years.

21st Signal Regiment cannot boast of as long a tradition as some, but we can associate with the excellent record of Air Formation Signals and claim to be playing a special part in the historic transformation to Air Support Signals during this, the 50th Anniversary year. 1970 marks with a doubling of our strength the formation of two new Squadrons with unique roles and we look forward to an exciting and challenging future.

From 22nd Signal Regiment

IN this, the 50th anniversary year of the Corps, all serving members of 22nd Signal Regiment send sincere greetings to all those who have served in the Regiment in the past and, indeed, to all members, past and present, of the Corps.

The Regiment's History

The Regiment has been in existence, in one form or another, for 27 years, dating from 1943. Prior to that year it had been raised as the 22nd Divisional Signal Company of the Signal Services, Royal Engineers, in October, 1914, and served in France and Salonika until April, 1919, when it was disbanded.

From 1943 to February, 1967, the Regiment has had a chequered career, from the beaches of Normandy to its present home in Lippstadt. Formed as 11th Air Formation Signal Regiment, in February, 1943, the Regiment joined 83 (Fighter) Group, R.A.F., and remained with them throughout the Normandy landings and subsequent operations in North West Europe.

A vital part in the Berlin airlift

At the end of the N.W. European campaign, the Regiment was based in Celle and was responsible for the communications on the 14 airfields of 84 Group, R.A.F., and 85 Wing Maintenance Group, within the framework of the British Air Forces of Occupation (BAFO). The latter was disbanded in 1951 and the Regiment moved to Lemgo to serve the newly-formed 2 TAF. During its service with BAFO, the Regiment had played a vital part in the communications for the Berlin air lift of 1948-49.

Subsequent reorganisation within the framework of 2 TAF led the Regiment to Sundern in 1955, and in 1955 there began a progressive hand-over of airfields and communication commitments to the Luftwaffe and German Post Office. The reduced commitments led ultimately, in 1959, to a change of role and the redesignation to 22nd Signal Regiment. It was then that the Regiment moved to Lippstadt, where it has been for the past 10½ years.

At this date the Regiment became the 1 (BR) Corps H.Q. Radio Regiment, with responsibilities for all net radio in 1 (BR) Corps, together with an EW and ASSU Squadron. Between 1959 and February, 1967, further changes in responsibilities occurred and by the latter date the Regiment was committed to the provision of all Rear Corps H.Q. communications and administrative communications within the Rear Corps Area. Such has remained the responsibilities to date.

New responsibilities accepted

The Regiment's role of 1967 was significant in that the new responsibilities were accepted with the simultaneous introduction of the BRUIN Communications System to 1 (BR) Corps. The truly significant point of the advent of 'BRUIN' to the Regiment was not the revolutionary facilities of that system, but the fact that its introduction, forward of the Corps H.Q., released old range equipment to provide for the first time a system of communications serving the numerous administrative units in the Rear Corps Area so essential to the maintenance of a fighting force.

Development of the rear area system has continued and in this, the anniversary year of the Corps, the Comcen Squadrons of the Regiment are destined to retire much of the old range equipment which has served us and the 1 (BR) Corps H.Q. so well for many years and accept new BRUIN equipment, which will help us to improve again the communications we provide for our customers.

Some of the new equipment is already in service with the Regiment, so that there is at present a happy marriage of the new and old.

1970 has been, and will continue to be, an exciting year for 22nd Signal Regiment and it will certainly relate a significant page in the history of communications with 1 (BR) Corps.

From 30th Signal Regiment

1970 is a time of anniversaries for Blandford. The 50th year celebrations will be centred here, in a year that also marks the 10th anniversary of Royal Signals presence, in the form of 30th Signal Regiment. For it was in 1960 that the Regiment took up residence at Blandford Camp. The move was celebrated by a ceremonial march-past in the town of Blandford Forum, and further distinguished by the adoption of the Regiment by the Worshipful Company of Dyers, from whom the famous White Swan emblem was borrowed.

Ten years ago the Regiment was predominantly employed on trials, in which role it earned a Corps-wide reputation, and helped develop many of the new equipments coming into service today. However, over the years, the role has been changing. From a small start in 1962, when the 'globe-trotting' 640 Troop was formed, the Regiment gradually lost all its trials flavour, until it finally became wholly committed to strategic reserve support.

Now, in this anniversary year, the Regiment is earning its spurs all over the world. It has men in Anguilla, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Singapore and Northern Ireland. It has a detachment on exercise in Hong Kong, and a whole new Squadron committed to NATO, which trains in Norway, Germany and Turkey. So we, the past and present members of 30th Signal Regiment, from Blandford and all over the world, wish the rest of the Corps a happy anniversary.

From 5 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron

ON the 50th Birthday of the Corps, 5 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron is a mere ten years old. Born 205 Signal Squadron on 1st April, 1960, in Iserlohn, the Squadron lived and worked in B.A.O.R. until May, 1964. At that stage the Squadron was withdrawn to Tidworth as part of the Strategic Reserve.

After 18 months of Strategic Reserve training, the Squadron was shipped to Borneo, with the Brigade Headquarters, to take over H.Q. Midwest Brigade. From November, 1965, they ran the Sibu Comcen and returned in August, 1966, with trophies, photographs and war-stories which have remained ever since. In fact, it is now only two months since the last remaining Borneo warrior departed the Squadron.

August, 1966, in addition to seeing the return to Tidworth, saw the onset of integration—official recognition of a situation which had existed for the previous four years—and the adoption of the present unit title.

Since then, the Squadron has been in Tidworth, taking part in the annual round of exercises. Recently there have been two highly enjoyable and worthwhile diversions. In June and July, 1969, we provided communications for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarvon. In February and March, 1970, we threw off the trappings of communicators and became an 'infantry company' training in Cyprus on Exercise 'Winch.' This latter excursion will be documented fully in our next set of notes. Now we are fully occupied training for our new role in N.A.T.O., always of course keeping a careful eye on the problems of airportability.

Now, on the 50th Birthday of the Corps, we take this opportunity to pass our best wishes to all members of the Corps and particularly to the past members of the Squadron. The Saxon Horse is alive and well and living in Tidworth!

From 240 Signal Squadron, York

ALL in 240 Signal Squadron send greetings to the Editor and Staff of THE WIRE on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Corps—we fervently hope that many of us will still be around to greet you when the Centenary year comes round!

Looking back

The 50th Anniversary sharply reminds one just how quickly 'tempus' does 'fugit'—particularly when one looks at photographs of past occasions and events, and in company with others of (more or less) the same vintage, reminisces about those days when we were much younger. There are no doubt those members who can still recall Maresfield and Crowborough but the vast majority must be those nurtured in pre-war Catterick, and must recall those days of breeches and puttees; 'form-fours' and 'form two-deep'; church parades on the Depot Battalion square on Sunday mornings; the feeling of release after the final pass-off parade; flag-bashing with numbed hands on windy Whinney Hill and a bleak background of snow; spring drills, the smell of early morning stables and other memories by the dozen. And then, looking with mild awe at the returned Ponki-Wallahs and listening to how they soldiered in places such as Peshawar, Razmak, Meerut and Karachi—and how yet again, after the interminable voyage on H.T. Blankshire, one found oneself in these same locations with five years to do, but with the cycle fulfilled on return to U.K. and the Bombay-bowler being flung into the waters of the Solent (if it had not already been discarded in the Suez Canal). All very Kiplingesque, and whilst it must be said that it was not all roses all the way, nor all beer and skittles (but what about a sack of Murree dark?), for there were times when life wasn't very pleasant such as lying at night on a Waziristan khudside with one blanket and a groundsheet and the cold rain trickling down one's back, full in the knowledge that the sun on the morrow was the only likely drying medium; or in hospital suffering from malaria or sandfly, and feeling as near to death as ever one could. But it is doubtful if there is anyone who regrets these experiences and the like from China to Gibraltar; because with every respect to the soldiers of today, we of the old and bold like to think that those were the days! (But since the reminiscent recalls being told by a Boer War cum 1914/18 veteran that **his** days were **the** days—was it not ever thus?).

From 632 Signal Troop, Hebrides

The Past

IN the beginning (1957-58) it was 632 Signal Troop (S.W.S.) when our 'founder members,' **Captain (TOT) A. E. Earl** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. G. D. Hutley,** set things going. Since then the TOT has disappeared from the establishment, leaving a succession of combatant officers at the helm and a similar succession of Foremen to maintain the technical side.

We have always been a busy unit, keeping up with constant changes in range configuration to suit whatever is going on at the time. (There has also been a certain amount of activity in the pursuit of fish and wildfowl!). Many Royal Signals tradesmen will look back on their stay in the islands with pleasure —whether at some job well done or fish well caught—as they lift their 'Slainte Mhath' beer pots in some distant hostelry.

The Present

Since 1958 most of our equipment has been replaced by more modern items. Yes, even the 7B(WD) and that other thing. We've moved our technical accommodation, too, old members will be interested to learn. The PMBX and MDF are all that remain of the original installation at Rangehead—apart from miles of UG cable. The VHF radio and the Comcen are now nicely installed in what was the Guardroom Annex in the Maintenance Compound and the 'Hairies' are very comfortable, thank you, in the old 'Decontamination Centre.' They (the 'Hairies') perhaps regret more than anyone the demolition of the old VHF site because they haven't so much time to hide the cards or dominoes when an impending 'snooper' is observed.

St. Kilda layout, as far as Signals are concerned, remains virtually unchanged, though we now use C41/R222 and the cabling at the bottom end is suffering at the hands of the builders at the moment. (The nissen huts are finally being replaced by modern accommodation).

Our Admin. Site installation had a recent 'face-lift' when new equipment was installed and we spread out a little after persuading the G.P.O. to put a new PMBX in the old Post Room.

The Future

In the fairly near future, of course, much money is being spent on new buildings at Rangehead and Admin./Domestic sites and most of our equipment is to be moved yet again. The 10+50s give way to 100-line autos, VHF moves to Admin Site, and we even expect a Radio Telephone to the Monachs. A certain gentleman offered to lay D10—submarine version, of course—on a recent lobster-fishing trip, but it is suspected he was more interested in a weekly maintenance trip to replenish his larder than communications! Anyway, that's another story, which we hope to give you later.

Looking to the future from a different angle, the Range Second-in-Command, having read this draft, reiterates his plea for a Royal Signals amateur radio enthusiast with a current operating licence. His P.R.I. has a complete station in mothballs. Anyone interested might like to volunteer?

In Conclusion

We haven't been going for 50 years but we try to uphold the good name the Corps has established during that time amongst the other Regiments and Corps which make up the R.A. Range, Hebrides. It could be said that we are doing our bit in maintaining Corps relations with the local populace too—perhaps the effects of this will not show up for many years but we expect potential fathers to put in a good word for the Corps when the time comes!

It is our hope that the planning and preparation going on now will be beneficial to future Troop members and we would like to conclude by extending our best wishes to all past members of 632 Signal Troop, to THE WIRE magazine (we spend so much time reading it that we have no time to write for it!) and to the Corps as a whole on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Royal Signals.

From 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V)

GREETINGS to THE WIRE and congratulations on half-a-century of service to the Corps from 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) in Belfast.

Ulster has never known compulsory military service in the form of conscription or National Service but the Province boasts a long and proud history of voluntary military service, producing many distinguished soldiers — Montgomery, Alexander, Templer and Alanbrooke to mention but a few.

This tradition of voluntary service is exemplified in the Ulster Signal Regiment. Against a background of political upheaval and civil unrest, and despite competition from the newly formed Ulster Defence Regiment, 40th Signal Regiment continues to flourish. The Regiment has maintained a happy marriage of all sections of the community, embracing Roman Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, alike.

The origin of the Regiment goes back to the early spring of 1939, when the first Volunteer Signal Unit to be raised in Northern Ireland came into being with the formation of the 3rd (Ulster) A.A. Brigade Signal Regiment. The Unit was mobilised in August, 1939, and in November joined the British Expeditionary Force in France. There it was engaged in providing communications, in co-operation with the French P.T.T. for the anti-aircraft defence of sub-base areas.

On the capitulation of France the unit was evacuated to the United Kingdom, and in October, 1940, it embarked (less No. 3 Section) for the Middle East; there it was absorbed into 2nd A.A. Brigade H.Q. Signals. No. 3 Section remained with the 8th H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and took part in the Battle of Britain. In July, 1941, it was sent overseas and saw service in Iraq and Persia.

The reconstitution of the Territorial Army in 1947 provided the opportunity to continue the Royal Signals connection in Northern Ireland, and in November, 1947, 35 (Ulster) A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron T.A. was formed. In 1955 Anti-aircraft Command was abolished and the Squadron reformed as 11 (Ulster) Signal Liaison Squadron T.A. The W.R.A.C. element of 35 (Ulster) A.A. Independent (M) Signal Squadron was reformed as 57 Signal Squadron W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and changed the title to 324 Signal Squadron W.R.A.C. (T.A.) in 1959).

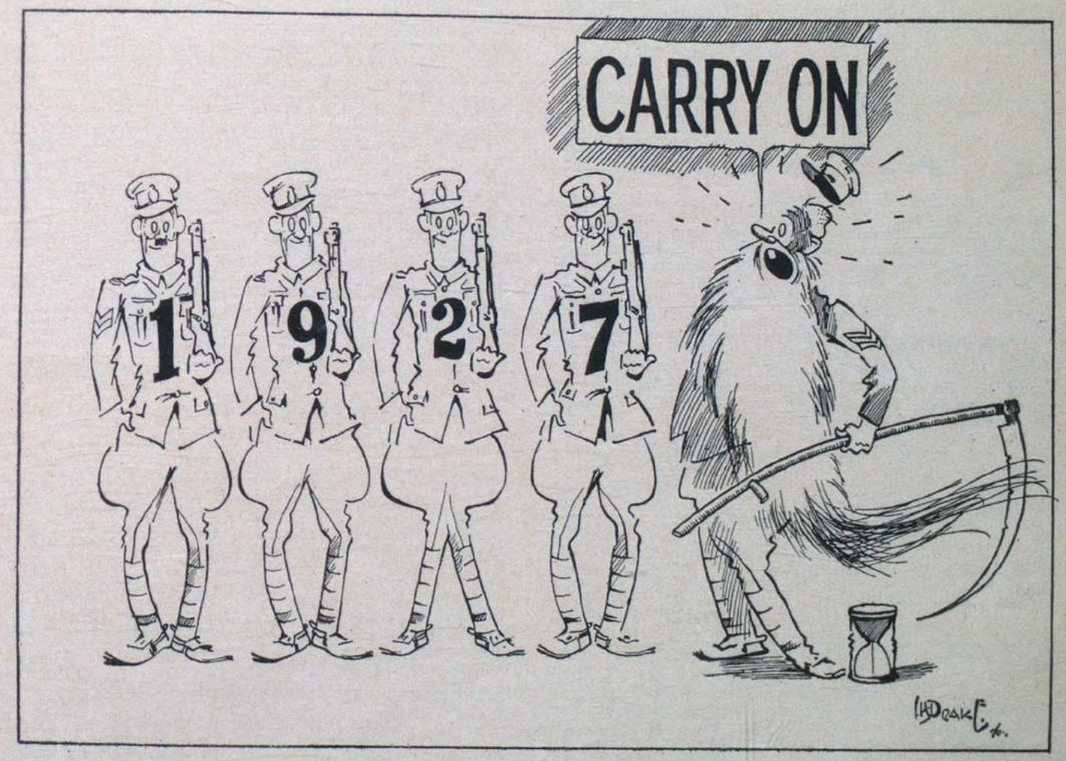
In 1957 11 (Ulster) Signal Liaison Squadron was disbanded and 11 (Ulster) Signal Squadron was formed, subsequently changing its title to 323 (Ulster) Independent Signal Squadron (T.A.).

On 1st February, 1961, as a result of the re-organisation of the Reserve Army, 66th (Ulster) Signal Regiment, T.A., was formed by the amalgamation of 323 (Ulster) Signal Squadron T.A. with 324 Signal Squadron W.R.A.C. (T.A.) and elements of 328 (Ulster) Battalion W.R.A.C. (T.A.)

The emergence of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve led to the amalgamation in 1967 of 66th (Ulster) Signal Regiment, 302 Brigade Signal Squadron (formerly attached to 107 (U) Independent Infantry Brigade Group (T.A.)) and 81 Signal Squadron (formerly 81st Signal Regiment A.E.R.) to form the present 40th (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V). 81 Squadron has a proud and distinguished history of its own, having evolved from the 1st Kite Balloon Signal Sections, Leeds, as far back as 1924. It subsequently saw service as Air Formation Signals in France 1939-40, the Battle of Britain, North Africa (Torch) and Italy.

And so today the Ulster Signal Regiment, under the command of **Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Hall,** remembers its past with pride and looks to the future with confidence.

FROM THE WIRE 43 YEARS AGO!



THE RELIEF. By L. H. DRAKE.

L. H. Drake was a renowned Wire cartoonist over many years. We have pleasure in reproducing, as a typical example of his work, the cartoon that appeared in the January 1927 Wire signifying the departure of the Old Year and the arrival of the New One

From our "In" Tray

To Editor The Wire.

Splendid reading. Keep it up.

Darllef arbennig cadwch ef I lan.

Leighadh ro-mhath cum suasl.

All ranks 13 Signal Gp (V).

"Through to 1970"

Sir,

Many of your readers will by now have read 'Through to 1970,' published by the Royal Signals Institution.

The text of the book is clear and succinct. It is illustrated very fully and attractively. In all, it is an admirable production which is a 'must' for every member and ex-member of the Corps.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to congratulate the Editor, Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Day, and the author, Colonel R. M. Adams, who researched, wrote and compiled this worthy publication as a contribution to the Corps' 50th Anniversary.

W. G. Tucker, Brigadier
Chairman,
28th May, 1970. The Royal Signals Association.

Motor Cycles of the 1920's

The letter from **Mr. W. A. Clark** in the April/May issue, under the heading 'Life at Crowborough,' with a photograph showing a group on a motor cycle, way back in the 1920s; a machine which **Mr. Clark** referred to as a Douglas twin-cylinder, belt-driven machine, has brought the following reply from **Major W. E. Fi'l**:

Sir,

Motor cycle shown in your picture, April/May WIRE, is, I think, a Triumph 'H' Model.

The series for the 1920s were: Triumph 'H,' belt drive, early '20s; Triumph 'P,' chain drive, mid-'20s; Triumph 'N,' chain drive, late '20s; Triumph 'NL,' chain drive, Triumph, saddle tank, early 30s.

Douglas twin cyclinders were in use during the early '30s. I am not aquainted with early models, but they may have existed.

Many 'F' Company (Boys) Fitters learnt to ride on an 'H' Model Triumph.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. Fill, Major.

Army Careers Information Office,
43A, Queen Street,
Wolverhampton.

THE JOHN BALMER CANCER FUND

Sir,

In response to the notice published in the March/April issue of THE WIRE, H.Q. Mess has received many contributions to this fund, and has been able to forward a cheque for £100 to **John Balmer's** widow, to donate to cancer research, as she wishes.

I should like, on her behalf, through the medium of THE WIRE, to thank all those who have contributed.

Yours faithfully,

7th May, 1970. **J. R. Cubberley, Brigadier,**
Commandant, School of Signals.

The sharp eyes of Signalman Colin Brigg

Sir,

Signalman Colin Grigg, of this unit, has just drawn my attention to the photographs in 11th Signal Regiment's notes in the March-April WIRE. He has observed that two of the 'best recruits' have their cap badges the wrong way round, and that one appears to have a collar badge mounted horizontally and is apparently not wearing a lanyard. **Signalman Grigg** is anxious that the two soldiers be warned before the R.S.M. spots them.

Yours faithfully,

M. J. Pickard, Major.

253 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1.

(Our apologies to the best two recruits concerned, as the printers inadvertently reversed the original photograph, thereby making the badges appear to be the wrong way round. The other deficiences lie in another court. **Signalman Colin Brigg** will clearly make a sharp-eyed R.S.M. in due course.—Editor).

More memories about life at Crowborough in the Nineteen-Twenties

Sir,

I was very interested to read the letter from **Mr. W. A. Clark** in the April-May edition; it brought back so many happy memories. I have very clear recollections of **Lieutenant** (now Major-General) **Cary's** excellent concerts, for I painted all the scenery for them and acted as stage manager and publicity agent. The shows were naturally almost entirely humorous and ran without a break, except for an interval half way. We 'ragged' many things and people, including **Lieutenant** (now Major-General) **W. A. Scott,** the Assistant Adjutant. **Lieutenant Cary,** affectionately known to us as **'R.T.O.,'** had a way of getting the best out of a cheerfully hard-working party. **Captain Hulbert** was indeed the Medical Officer, and he took over from 'R.T.O.,' but despite a visit from his famous sons and their wives, he never succeeded in making anything of the party, which soon disintegrated.

W. A. Clark (I cannot remember him; there were so many 'Nobbies') and others may be interested to know that a few years ago the Handy (hot doughnuts and tea) Stores in Crowborough Camp was still there, approachable only through an almost impenetrable jungle of trees and undergrowth. And there were large trees growing out of the squares, which we 'bashed' so thoroughly!

Yours sincerely,

C. H. Patrick, O.B.E.,
Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.)

5, Fieldgate House,
Bedwell Park, Stevenage, Herts.

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS WEDDING

The wedding of **Captain J. M. Sweetman** and **Miss Patricia O'Leary** took place at the Church of St. Catherine, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, on Saturday, 18th April. The **Rev. M. Molloy** and **Rev. E. J. Sass** officiated.

The bride is the only daughter of **Mr.** and **Mrs. D. O'Leary,** of 22, Lyndhurst Street, Mountain Ash, Glamorgan.

Captain James Sweetman is the only son of **Mr.** and **Mrs. S. Sweetman,** of 'Greenloaning,' West Common Close, Harpenden, Herts. He is an instructor in the Radio Division of the School of Signals.

A FORMIDABLE TASK

To try and include all that has been submitted for this WIRE has been a formidable task. Inevitably, cuts and certain omissions have been forced on us, for which we apologise. Even then, at 60 pages, this is the largest WIRE ever published.—Editor.

VACANCY FOR SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A senior administrative assistant is required in the Personnel and Training Division of a large distributive organisation based in Harrow, London. The work involves personal assistance to the Director of Personnel and Training, and involves planning itineraries, travel and accommodation reservation and general administration support demanding responsibilities in excess of those associated with secretarial work. A salary of £2,250 per annum is considered to be the right starting level, although a higher figure would be negotiated for a person having sound experience in this field of work. Applicants, who must be male, should be not older than 35.

All applications in writing to: The Personnel Manager (Attention **N. E. Hampel, Esq.**), The Spa and Viva Partnerships, 32-40, Headstone Drive, Harlow, Middlesex.

The position is required to be filled from 1st June, 1970.

RETIREMENT ADDRESS

Major E. P. Hughes informs us that his retirement address is: Naval and Military Club, 94, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Obituary

Major J. M. Hewson

Major James Massey Hewson died in the R.A.F. Hospital, Wegberg, in the early hours of the morning of 27th April.

'Big Jim' was born in Malta on 27th November, 1932. Educated at Haileybury and the Imperial Service College, he entered Sandhurst in April, 1952, and was commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals on the 12th February, 1954. From the O.T.W. he was posted to 29th Field Regiment, R.A., Signal Troop and later served in 2nd Infantry Division Signal Regiment, 14 Army Group Signal Regiment and 19 Army Group Signal Regiment.

The three years between 1959 and 1962 were probably the happiest and most rewarding years of his service. In Kohima Troop of the Junior Leaders' Regiment he found a task to which his personality and profound human qualities were ideally suited—the welfare, guidance and leadership of boy soldiers.

In 1962 he was posted to 19th Signal Regiment, in Singapore, and saw short periods of active service, with his detachments in Labuan, Kuching and Tawau in Borneo.

From September, 1965, until joining 16th Signal Regiment in September, 1967, he was selected for the leadership and initial training of young recruits at the Depot.

Born the son of an Army Padre, 'Big Jim' remained a pillar of the church throughout his life. His death, at the early age of 37, leaves a feeling of deep personal loss among his many friends within, and outside the Corps.

All who served with him will remember his big smile and infectious sense of humour, his calm and gentle nature, and, above all, his sincere and personal interest in people.

To one who was honoured with his friendship over many years, he personified the motto under which he served at Sandhurst—'*Serve to Lead.*'

Our deep sympathy and compassion go to his wife, Jane, his sons John and Julian, and to his brother, Sandy.

Movements

Officers

Major K. S. H. Allwright	To	School of Signals
Captain R. Adams	,,	1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant H. M. Adams	,,	1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Major B. M. Ashcroft	,,	21st Regiment
Captain (TTc.) D. A. Burge	,,	D.A.D.P.T.C., Blandford
Major (TTc.) E. G. Barrett	,,	H.Q., Berlin
Captain (Q.M.) K. B. Bailey	,,	11th Regiment (HS), retirement
Lieutenant-Colonel M. H. Broadway	,,	Mons O.C.S.
Lieutenant-Colonel F. G. Bonnart	,,	20 Liaison H.Q.
Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. T. Crump	,,	H.Q. NORTHAG (G1 Plans)
Major B. C. Complin	,,	14th Regiment
Captain S. R. Carr-Smith	,,	Mons O.C.S.
Major D. B. Carnie, M.B.E.	,,	D.S.S.C., Latimer
Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Ellis	,,	School
Lieutenant G. Hayes	,,	3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain (TOT) G. L. P. Hudson	,,	223 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) R. E. Howard, B.E.M.	,,	24th Regiment
Captain E. Hampson	,,	30th Regiment
Captain N. A. Horler	,,	6th Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major M. J. Hales	,,	7th Regiment
Lieutenant C. C. Johnson	,,	30th Regiment
Captain W. C. A. Kennedy	,,	R.A.R.D.E.
Major (TOT) L. F. Knight	,,	21st Regiment
Captain (TOT) I. R. Ludstone	,,	18th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain (TOT) W. A. Littlejohn	,,	J.O.C.P.T., Wilton
Captain R. S. Mansfield	,,	9th Regiment as Major
Captain (Q.M.) D. T. Neale	,,	22nd Regiment
Captain W. J. Pearson	,,	H.Q. AFCENT Sup. Unit
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E.	,,	MOD (Col. G.S. Ops./S.D.)
Captain (Q.M.) W. Watson	,,	22nd Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Walker	,,	MOD (MS6)
Captain R. A. Wright	,,	249 Squadron

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I S. B. C. Peberdy	To	34th Regiment (V)
W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. Durrant	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. C. Lee	,,	259 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) J. D. Knox	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II E. J. B. May	,,	21st Regiment
W.O.II G. McGilvray	,,	7 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II (Y. of S.) F. C. McLoughlin	,,	244 Squadron
W.O.II C. Nock	,,	11th Regiment
W.O.II D. J. Freeman	,,	H.Q., AFNORTH
W.O.II G. Penman	,,	252 Squadron
W.O.II R. C. Johnson	,,	227 Squadron
W.O.II H. Jennings	,,	30th Regiment
W.O.II L. G. Didlick	,,	11th Regiment
W.O.II F. C. O'Brien	,,	9th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) A. O. Harking	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) J. A. Higgins	,,	8th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II R. T. Thompson	,,	9th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) W. E. Greenhill	,,	39th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II P. A. Dean	,,	71st Regiment (V)
W.O.II C. Speight	,,	19th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) G. P. T. Raku	,,	7th Regiment
W.O.II D. C. Paterson	,,	2nd Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant M. D. McMahon	,,	252 Squadron
A/Staff Sergeant W. G. Thomas	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. G. Vale	,,	22nd Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Bowes	,,	227 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Hilliott	,,	34th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant R. J. Cockburn	,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. L. Danells	,,	9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant E. J. S. Baxter	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant P. R. Uttridge	,,	252 Squadron
Staff Sergeant C. Markie	,,	226 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. J. Peplow	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) L. R. Crowe	,,	5th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. V. P. Hall	,,	20 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. A. P. Chambers	,,	CV H.Q. and Trg. Wing
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. C. A. Clifton	,,	4th Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. G. Jones	,,	233 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. E. Francis	,,	1st Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. F. W. Livesey	,,	39 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) S. H. Waudy	,,	R. Military College of Science
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Hay	,,	610 Troop
Staff Sergeant D. Drane	,,	School of Signals
Staff Sergeant T. A. Abberley	,,	9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant T. Lyons	,,	5th Inf. Bde .Signal Squadron
Sergeant W. J. Duncan	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant A. J. Playford	,,	5th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant L. Harris	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant T. Gracie	,,	24th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant A. Bailey	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant D. Whittingham	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant J. Hall	,,	233 Squadron
Sergeant T. Wood	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant F. Smithurst	,,	3rd Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. C. Grattan	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant K. A. Childs	,,	17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. W. Patch	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant A. E. Phillips	,,	19th Regiment
Sergeant J. F. Milton	,,	602 Troop
Sergeant W. J. Hills	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant M. J. Lewis	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant J. R. Humble	,,	11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant D. Brierley	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant A. Forrest	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant A. K. Pilkington	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant C. Parkinson	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant D. F. Woodruffe	,,	35th Regiment (V)
Sergeant A. M. Rutherford	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant R. P. H. Roberts	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant S. Smith	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant C. Auty	,,	242 Squadron
Sergeant J. R. Jarratt	,,	240 Squadron
Sergeant N. Jennings	,,	16th Regiment
Sergeant S. Gibson	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant M. J. Heath	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant P. W. Nichols	,,	244 Squadron
Sergeant M. F. P. Little	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant T. Bowman	,,	259 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Thurgood	,,	20 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant H. Ruff	,,	39 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant B. Green	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant J. C. Blake	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant H. Wrigglesworth	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant K. Sixsmith	,,	Army App. College, Harrogate

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Cleaver, B.	1690	3030	
	A/W.O.I	Copley, J. N.	1730	3450	
To W.O.II	S/Sgt.	Vasper, R.	5280	5280	
	A/W.O.II	Wise, J. H.	5310	5220	
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Scrutton, J. A.	6110	990	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Humphries, J. M.	6120	160	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	French, R. F.	6130	5326	(Tech.)
	A/S Sgt.	Cairns, P. B.	6140	250	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Sinnett, J.	6160	179	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Lowe, G. S.	6170	3826	(Tech.)
	Sgt.	Dixon, R. F.	6180	110	(E.D.)
	Sgt.	Ellis, B.	6210	110	(Comcen Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Marr, J. A.	6220	210	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Hunt, E. C.	6230	670	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Scott, A.	6260	100	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	French, G. E. W.	6270	640	(Comcen Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Akehurst, J. G. P.	6290	430	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Quinn, F. A.	6310	570	(C. Op.)
	Sgt.	Hay, C.	6330	260	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Farrell, P. G.	6350	70	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Docherty, H. A.	6360	910	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Griffiths, G. J.	6400	1690	(R. Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Driscoll, K. J.	6420	110	(C. Op.)
	Sgt.	Coultish, C. A.	6440	330	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Vale, R. G.	6460	1080	(R. Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Stogdale, T.	6470	170	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Atkins, F.	6480	960	(R. Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	North, D.	6490	980	(R. Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Speirs, D.	6530	400	(Comcen Op.)
	A/S Sgt.	Haskell, R. J.	6550	200	(Lmn.)
	A/S Sgt.	Milne, P. J.	6560	260	

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Milne, R. W. W.	3800	3820	
	Sgt.	Bradbury, K. E.	3810	4038	
	Sgt.	Gallagher, B. J.	3820	4830	
	Sgt.	Maiden, P. J. B.	3830	4870	
	Sgt.	King, A.	3840	5100	
	Sgt.	Cowell, N. C.	3850	5148	
	Sgt.	Hill, R. J.	3860	5155	
	Sgt.	Hodgson, P. J.	3870	5280	
	Sgt.	Smith, P.	3880	5320	
	Sgt.	Pyke, J. D.	3890	5530	
	Sgt.	Gadman, F.	3900	5552	
	Sgt.	Campbell, M. G. H.	3910	5698	
	Sgt.	MacPhall, D.	3920	5730	
	Sgt.	Kidd, R. S.	3930	5835	
	Sgt.	Harris, K. D.	3940	6170	

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Stoddard, B. J.	150	50	
	S Sgt.	Cooper, T. B.	160	120	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Harkins, A. O.	1650	1920	
	S Sgt.	McLoughlin, F. C.	1680	1870	
	S Sgt.	Ferguson, J. M.	1690	1380	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Couperthwaite, W. R. D.	2250	870	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Strickland, J. A.	2260	1040	(R. Op.)
	Sgt.	Mack, T. M.	2270	390	(C. Op.)
	Sgt.	Lovell, J. E.	2280	290	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Cheesman, W. J.	2290	350	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Rayment, J. D.	2300	380	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Ross, J. Mc A.	2310	600	(C. Op.)
	Sgt.	McLoughlin, P. J.	2320	1070	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Wraith, J. A.	2330	570	(Tg. Op.)
	Sgt.	Nicol, M.	2340	670	(Tg. Op.)
	A/Sgt.	Hawkins, A. L.	2350	1010	(Tg. Op.)

CHIEF CLERK ROLL

To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Adamson, R.	1250	1280
	A/W.O.II	Lee, P. R.	1260	1350
	A/W.O.II	Hamilton, R. J.	1270	1390
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Francis, F. E.	1640	560
	Sgt.	McMahon, J. P.	1650	510
	A/S Sgt.	Wallace, N.	1660	80
	A/S Sgt.	Laverick, F.	1670	550
	A/S Sgt.	Roberts, D. G.	1680	20
	A/S Sgt.	Frost, J. W. L.	1690	590
	A/S Sgt.	McGann, P. T.	1700	450
	Sgt.	George, J.	1710	610
	Sgt.	Cole, P. D.	1720	500
	A/S Sgt.	Dunnett, M.	1730	440
	Sgt.	Tait, J. C.	1740	520
	A/S Sgt.	Hughes, F. S.	1750	40
	Sgt.	Smoker, B. W.	1760	540
	A/S Sgt.	Hewett, A. D.	1770	600
	A/S Sgt.	Papandreou, A. G.	1780	420
	A/S Sgt.	Webb, C. S.	1790	640
	A/S Sgt.	Duke, J. J.	1800	360

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Stanley, M. R.	9297	13732
	Cpl.	Reid, R. K. G.	9312	14626
	Cpl.	Mosley, P. J.	9321	13347
	Cpl.	Musgrove, A. J.	9331	15174
	Cpl.	Crisp, P. F.	9416	13906
	Cpl.	Watson, J. A.	9417	13987
	Cpl.	Lloyd, B. J.	9418	14375
	Cpl.	Nunns, J.	9455	14460
	Cpl.	Brown, A. D.	9465	13760
	Cpl.	McDonald, J. C.	9475	12905
	Cpl.	Buttle, P. H.	9490	14478

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Lockie, M. D.	1080	270
	Cpl.	Paddison, M.	1140	520
	Cpl.	Cartwright, T. H. C.	1150	1800
	Cpl.	Pimm, D. S.	1160	1860
	Cpl.	Finch, K. R.	1180	760
	Cpl.	Swann, D. A.	1210	1850

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Emraz, H. P.	520	640
	A/Sgt.	Brookes, D.	530	340

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Bienvenu, M. J.	880	270
	A/Sgt.	Hayton, C.	900	80
	A/Sgt.	Bassford, D. J.	920	150

ELECTRICIAN DRIVERS ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Towler, V.	410	460
	Cpl.	Wray, B.	420	790
	A/Sgt.	Thomas, D.	430	240

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Crowe, P. J.	1910	490
	A/Sgt.	McGurk, D. T.	1940	2210
	A/Sgt.	Willis, D.	1960	410

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.II 1660 4180

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I 960

SUPERVISOR (RADIO) ROLL

W.O.I 10

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I 420

TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt. 4034 5940 6000 7030 7370

SPECIAL OPERATORS ROLL

Sgt. 320 670

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt. 640

CLERK/DRAUGHTSMAN ROLL

Sgt. 50

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt. 460

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt. 350 520

DRIVER, ROYAL SIGNALS ROLL

Sgt. 10

LINEMAN ROLL

Sgt. 520

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt. 1180

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during April, 1970:

O.C., 11th Signal Regiment		15	0
Commander, H.Q. Blandford Station for The Dorset and Bournemouth Constabulary		25	0
O.C., 83rd (London) Signal Squadron (V)		2	0
Hon. Secretary, Shrewsbury Branch, Royal Signals Association		35	0
Hon. Secretary, Glossop and District Royal Signals Old Comrades' Association		21	0
Hon. Secretary, Central Scotland Branch, Royal Signals Association		1	1
H. R. W. Marsh, Esq.		10	0
G. A. Vincent, Esq.		2	2
Major (Tfc.) F. W. Natolie, Royal Signals		1	1
G. D. Adamson, Esq.		1	1
T. H. L. Spaight, Esq.		1	0
J. A. Hood, Esq.		1	0
J. G. Hopkins, Esq.		1	0
G. W. Ogden, Esq.			13
R. A. Briggs, Esq.			10
E. P. Piers, Esq.			10
A. H. Campbell, Esq.			10
Various individual donations		4	13
Total	£108	18	0
Expenditure during April, 1970	£871	14	5

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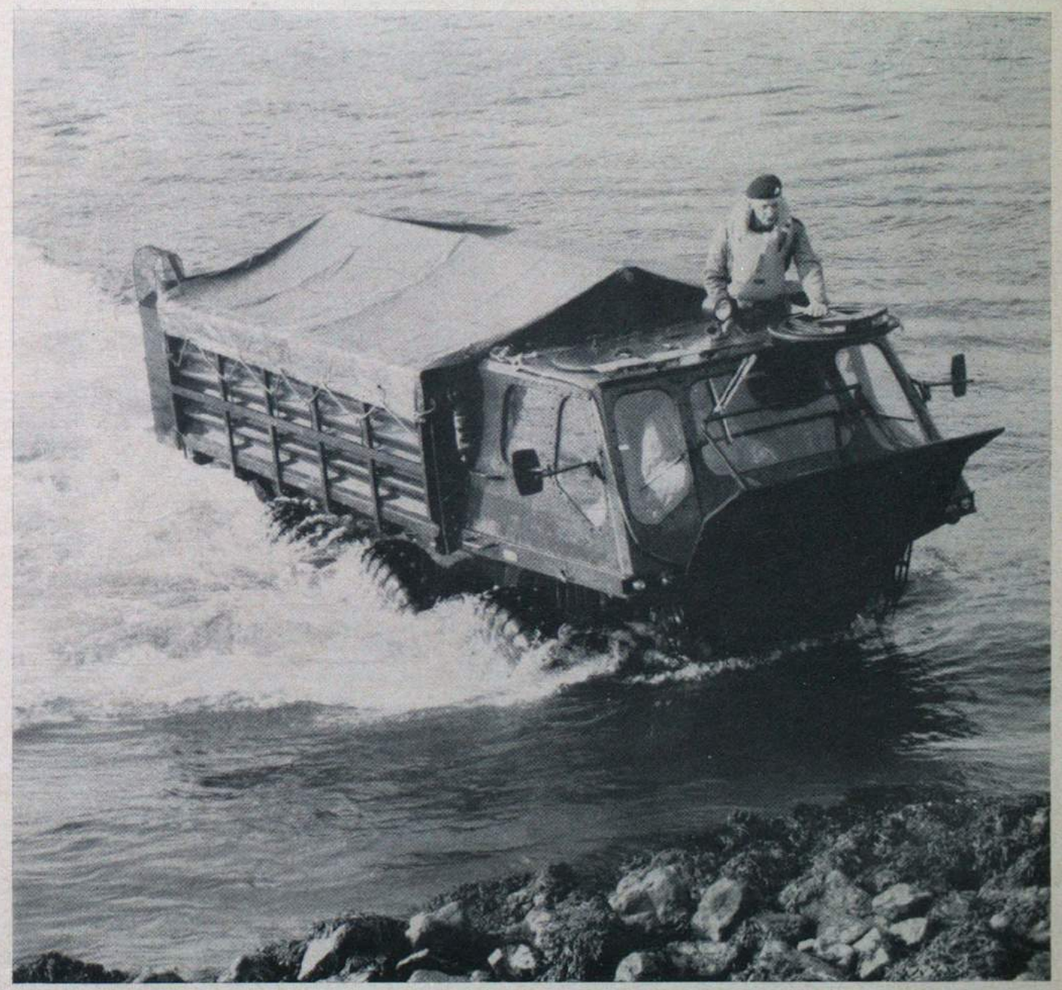

School of Signals, Blandford Camp

Hampshire-Dorset film battle at School of Signals, Blandford

A FIERCELY contested amateur cine film battle was recently fought in the Princess Mary Hall at the School of Signals, Blandford. Ten clubs took part, Dorset being represented by Blandford Camera Club Film Unit, Weymouth Cine Club, Dorchester Cine Club, Shaftesbury Cine Club and the School of Signals Film Unit. Their opponents, representing Hampshire, were Gosport Cine Club, Fordingbridge Camera Club, Winchester Cine Club, Bournemouth and New Forest Cine Club and Ordnance Survey Cine Club. Each club produced a film for the competition which was sponsored by The School of Signals. Two judges were provided by each county for the contest, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** Commandant School of Signals, and **Mrs. Pat Slomen** of Southern Independent Television, represented Dorset, while **Mr. E. Arman** and **Mr. R. Leighfield** acted for Hampshire. **Major Leon Talbot** (retired), Chief Instructor Salisbury College of Art, was the fifth and independent judge.

Opening shots of the battle were fired by Dorset to an enthusiastic packed audience from both counties, with Hampshire replying strongly after the half-time interval.

At the end of an excellent film evening, Hampshire retired the proud victors by a narrow margin, having captured the inter-counties shield donated by The School of Signals Film Unit. The Ordnance Survey Cine Club won the best film of the evening award of a silver cup, donated by **Mr. P. Amey** of the Services Kinema Corporation, and ten pounds donated by the participating clubs, with their animation film 'Your Move.' The School of Signals Film Unit production 'Restless Youth' ran a very close second. **Mrs. J. R. Cubberley** presented the trophies to the victors.

All clubs agreed that this should be an annual competition and it is said that Dorset is already planning next year's offensive.

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals Commemorative Service

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

On Sunday, 5th April, as part of the Corps' 50th anniversary celebrations in 1 (BR) Corps, a commemorative service of thanksgiving and rededication was held in Ripon Barracks, Bielefeld. Due to bad weather, the service, which was conducted by the **Rev. P. Malins, M.A., C.F.,** was held in Ripon Hall and not on the square, as was originally planned.

After the service, troops from the two Corps Signal Regiments, Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiments, Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadrons, 4th Canadian Mechanised Brigade Group Signal Squadron and the Motor Cycle Display Team took part in a march past, where the salute was taken by **Lieutenant-General J. A. T. Sharp, C.B., M.C.,** the Corps Commander. Music was provided during both the service and march past by the Corps Band.

Following the celebrations in Ripon Barracks, guests, who included the Corps Commander, senior officers from H.Q., 1 (BR) Corps, allied Chief Signal Officers and friends of Royal Signals in the Corps Area, attended a reception by C.C.R. Signals and 1 (BR) Corps Royal Signals Officers.

H.Q. 1 Signal Group, Salisbury

THE Group, which now comprises 14th and 30th Signal Regiments and 223 Signal Squadron (Radio), and offers advice and assistance in technical and training matters to 55 Signal Squadron (V), has taken on new life in the past year.

Changes in the composition of the Group includes the acquisition of two TSC-500 mobile satellite earth stations, the raising of a Mobile Force Radio Troop for Allied Command, Europe, and severing our responsibilities for DCN work. The changes have been accomplished with the minimum of fuss, but not without a great deal of hard work on the part of our Regiments.

Colonel E. J. Winn, the Commander, is as active as ever. **Major John Taylor,** our first G.S.O.2 Signals, left us in November last to take command of 24 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron and was replaced by **Major Dick Carroll,** who quickly immersed himself in the Group's operational and exercise scene—and in the local golf course!

Captain Peter Dale also left us in July, 1969, to join 5 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. He was replaced by **Captain David Hodges,** who is engaged in the more sophisticated aspects of our technical work, and who is our man in the space race.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Congdon continues in magisterial style as our D.A.A. & Q.M.G., and despatches lawful proceedings with his customary aplomb, while **Major J. E. L. Adams** is soon to leave us for a staff appointment at H.Q. B.A.O.R.

Our Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Frank Costello,** decided to give up the unequal struggle in April and has retired to the Midlands to boost brewing sales. His cheerful manner and imperturbability kept us in good humour during moments of stress. We wish him the very best of good luck in his new career.

Our new Chief Clerk is **Sergeant Ron Gaffney,** who joined us in March from Cyprus and who has quickly mastered our particular brand of staff work! His lively clerical team includes **Corporal Tom Pengelley,** now settling into the routines of life in married quarters, **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Sayers,** both of whom are the mainstay of H.Q., Army Strategic Command's football team, **Miss Mary Adams** and **Mrs. Bernadette Sutherland.** The staff car is ably chauffeured by **Corporal Tony Dransfield,** and our draughtsman, **Mr. Arthur Springer,** master of the French Curve and the thin black line, has fortuitously side-stepped retirement in order to keep us well and truly in line for another year.

At present we are very actively engaged in organising the Royal Signals' 50th Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, headed by the Master of Signals, to be held in Salisbury Cathedral on Sunday, 21st June, and to which some 1,500 serving and retired members of the Corps and their families are expected.

H.Q. 3rd Signal Group (NEARELF), B.F.P.O. 53

HELLO again from H.Q., 3 Signal Group, here in Cyprus! We apologise for the infrequency of articles from this small unit, but we feel that news from Cyprus is adequately covered by our Signal units, which, for the uninitiated, are: 9th Signal Regiment, 259 Signal Squadron, 261 Signal Squadron, 262 Signal Squadron, FSS (Ace High) Cape Greco, 644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP).

Besides which, stodgy life in a Headquarters does not make for interesting reading. However, before giving coverage of our recent V.I.P. visitor, the following is a 'Who's Who' guide to the present Headquarters set up:

Commander, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.;** S.O.2 (Signals), **Major John Denton;** S.O.2 (Tels.), **Major Norman Shaw;** S.O.2 (Lines), **Major Jim Robinson;** S.O.3 (Signals), **Captain John May; T.O.T., Captain George Paul;** S.O.3 (Lines), **Captain (Retd.) Jerry Edwards;** Chief Clerk, **W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Rose;** Military Staff, **Sergeant Dempster, Corporal Barstow, Corporal Hegarty, Private Baird** (W.R.A.C.); Civilian Staff, **Mrs. Kellard, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Solly, Mrs. Miller** and **Mr. Slingsby.**

Visit of Director of Telecommunications (Army)

Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., A.D.C., Director of Telecommunications (Army), visited the island from 12th-17th March to pay liaison visits to our Royal Signals units in Cyprus.

Despite a gruelling day's travel on Thursday, 12th March, and a late settling-in that evening, Friday saw the beginning of a hectic round of visits, handshakes and briefings. The programme started with a quick look in at H.Q., 3 Signal Group to meet the staff and have introductory talks. This was immediately followed by visits to the Episkopi elements of Royal Signals units, which included the S.H.Q., Radio Relay Engineering Control and Episkopi Radio Relay terminal of 259 Signal Squadron, where the Brigadier met the O.C., **Major A. S. McK. Anderson, W.O.I (F. of S.) E. M. S. Short, W.O.II (F. of S.) D. E. G. Lanyon** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Edwards,** and a 'live' line party at work, the Episkopi telephone exchange, and S.H.Q. of 261 Signal Squadron, where he met the O.C., **Major N. C. Grayson, Captain (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley, W.O.I (F. of S.) D. Prime** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. V. Prees.** The morning was rounded off with calls on the G.O.C., NEARELF and Senior Staff Officers of H.Q., NEAF.

After a hasty lunch, **Brigadier Brindley** was whisked off to R.A.F., Akrotiri to see the Airfield Troop and Project Troop of 261 Signal Squadron, who are kept fully employed by this busy airfield.

This first formal day was rounded off with a drinks party in the NEARELF Officers' Mess during the evening.

Saturday morning saw the Brigadier and the Group Commander, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley,** flying to Dhekelia, in the Eastern S.B.A., for another frenzied round of visits. 262 Signal Squadron were first to do the honours by conducting their visitor around the Operations Centre, Commcen, Radio Troop and the technician workshop. An added interest was the Squadron display of radio equipment which was prepared originally for a visiting party of sixth-form pupils from Service Schools. During this brief tour, **Brigadier Brindley** met the O.C., **Major D. W. Gent, Captain A. P. de Bretton-Gordon, Captain T. C. O'Toole, Captain E. A. Poole,** O.C. W.R.A.C. Despite a tight schedule, the Brigadier managed to have a few words with every serviceman and service woman on his route.

The 'chopper' was inconveniently grounded at Dhekelia, so a tortuous road journey was next made to the Forward Scatter Station at Cape Greco. Here, the Station Commander, **W.O.II (F. of S.) Morris,** managed a lightning tour lasting about 10 minutes—even the guard dogs scarcely had time to snarl! Another bumpy car journey took the visitors to 9th Signal Regiment at Ayios Nicolaos, where another round of whistle-stop tours and handshakes took place.

After taking lunch with the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon, Brigadier Brindley** spent the afternoon relaxing(?) by touring round the old Turkish City of Famagusta. 9th Signal Regiment were again the hosts for that evening, where the Brigadier was guest of honour at the Regimental dinner night. A welcome break on Sunday the 15th was spent in the picturesque fishing port of Kyrenia, doing the usual tourist rounds.

Back to the grindstone on Monday! The day was spent visiting the joint communications set-up in the Troodos/Olympus hills, where our three Signal Squadrons all have small detachments, together with an RAF organisation. Here, the Brigadier met **Second-Lieutenant A. R. Lee,** Royal Signals, who has the immediate task of looking after all the 'bits and pieces' of Royal Signals and mediating with the RAF hierarchy. Not for nothing has he gained the reputation of being a wise monkey!

ON MOUNT OLYMPUS—VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO CYPRUS

Brigadier A. P. Brindley, M.B.E. meets Corporal Gregg (262 Signal Squadron) at the V.H.F. radio site on Mount Olympus, accompanied by Squadron-Leader D. L. Bergin (det. 280 SU) and Captain R. E. Barber Royal Signals (21C 259 Signal Squadron)

Whilst in the 'hills,' a quick call was made on the Troodos Leave Centre, which is run by **Captain (Q.M.) Ken Bailey** (one of the few people out here who manages to maintain a tan all year round!).

After a final wash-up at H.Q. 3rd Signal Group the following morning, **Brigadier Brindley** departed for U.K. We suspect he was secretly hoping that his aircraft would be grounded as the U.K. papers were carrying headline news of snow and ice covering Britain—in contrast to our 70°F.

H.Q. Land Forces B.F.P.O. 1

Visit of the S.O.-in-C. to Hong Kong

THE S.O.-in-C. arrived from Bangkok on Thursday, 26th February, and departed for Singapore on Saturday, 28th February. During the one working day, he visited the three Royal Signals units within the Colony, the remainder of the time being spent meeting individuals on a less formal basis.

253 Signal Squadron

The Signal Officer-in-Chief was met by the Squadron Commander (**Major Martin Pickard**) and inspected a ceremonial barrack guard provided by the unit. The guard commander was **Sergeant Chow Kam Piu.** The S.O.-in-C. then toured the unit lines and visited the new telephone exchange building. He then met all ranks at a coffee party in the recreation centre. He met many people he had served with before and was drawn into conversation on a wide variety of topics, ranging from career prospects to the performance of the Corps rugby team. As his visit coincided with the first announcement of the new Military Salary scales, it was a stimulating hour.

48 Gurkha Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron

All was ready for the visit of the S.O.-in-C. The square had been declared sacred, out of bounds to all but the immaculate chosen few who stood as a quarter guard outside Squadron H.Q. awaiting the sound of approaching staff cars. Everything was ready, everything thought of; everything, that is, except a Chinese dustcart crew's complete lack of a 'sense of occasion.' Seconds before **General Pentreath** was due to arrive, the dustcart rattled on to the square, passing unconcernedly between commander and guard and parking a few yards away to empty dustbins.

Next time you are stuck for something really challenging to do, try persuading a Chinese dustman, who speaks no English, to go elsewhere and empty someone else's dustbins! So it was then, that as the S.O.-in-C.'s and C.R. Signals staff cars purred into view, a dustcart of fist-shaking Chinamen and a relieved subaltern made a hurried exit.

A 'whistle-stop tour' of the Squadron lines, followed by a wetting of whistles at the Gurkha Sergeants' Mess, gave **General Pentreath** an opportunity to talk to most of the Squadron personalities. Drinks at the Sergeants' Mess were followed by drinks and curry lunch at the Officers' Mess with the British and Queen's Gurkha Officers before leaving again by helicopter for 252 Signal Squadron on Hong Kong Island.

Despite the crowded programme, the S.O.-in-C. managed to have a few words with a very large proportion of the Squadron, and even after he left the Squadron area, he managed to persuade his A.A.C. pilot (**Captain Graham Saunders,** Royal Signals) to fly up through the clouds to visit the Brigade Rebroadcast Site on top of Tai Mo Shan, which is manned 24 hours a day by Gurkha Signallers from the Squadron. As a matter of interest, this station has now been open continuously for 36 months. We do not believe that any other Brigade net, anywhere, shares this record.

252 Signal Squadron

At 252 Signal Squadron, the S.O.-in-C. was met by the Squadron Commander, **Major Roger Hills,** who invited him to inspect the unit guard of honour, commanded by **Captain John Higton.**

THE SMART AND IMMACULATE FEW . . .
who were chosen to form the Guard of Honour by 252 Signal Squadron for the S.O.-in-C. during Major-General Pentreath's visit to Hong Kong
Right to left in the photo: Lance-Corporal Parker, Corporal Wong Pak Keung, Corporal Taylor, Lance-Corporal Block, Signalman Szeto, Signalman Greenwood, General Pentreath and Major Hills

Having inspected and complimented the guard, **General Pentreath** presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to four senior members of the Squadron: **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. Norris, W.O.II (S.S.M.) G. Christie, Sergeant D. Bingham** and **Sergeant M. Fraser.**

He then gave a short address, which included a welcome word of encouragement to those on parade.

The General then visited Maintenance Troop, which is responsible for the maintenance and repair of telecommunications equipment in Hong Kong and Kowloon, and spoke to the Troop Commander, **W.O.I (F. of S.) Wood,** and members of the Troop.

The next stop in the S.O.-in-C.'s tour was at the Colony Polmil H.Q., where he saw the combined Police/Military operations room and the Squadron radio room and teleprinter room. This must be the only equivalent of a main Divisional H.Q. which has a total Signals watchkeeping shift of six.

General Pentreath then returned to Victoria Barracks to visit the Communications Centre, where he was met by the Chief Duty Signal Officer, **Captain Maurice Caplan,** and Yeoman of Signals **Andy Anderson.** The General toured the Commcen and spoke to the W.R.A.C. operators and Royal Signals drivers and technicians who were very busy.

During the evening the General was entertained by the Royal Signals Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s in their Mess in Victoria Barracks, where the 'Rooti Gongs,' presented earlier in the day were well and truly wetted.

The S.O.-in-C.'s visit was rounded off by lunch in Victoria Officers' Mess, with the Royal Signals Officers and their wives. **General Pentreath** then left for Kai Tak Airport, accompanied by C.R. Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel John Hart,** where he boarded a Cathay Pacific flight for Singapore.

UPGRADING COURSES AT CATTERICK

2/47	Technician TE	III-II	8 Sept. '70	4 Feb. '71
2/38	Technician RR	II-II	8 Sept. '70	21 Jan. '71
1/36	Cipher Op	II-I	22 Sept. '70	13 Nov. '70
2/21	Radio Op	III-II	8 Sept. '70	20 Nov. '70
2/3	Comcen Op	III-II	28 Sept. '70	18 Dec. '70
2/24	Clerk Tech	III-II	22 Sept. '70	20 Nov. '70
2/32	Comcen Op III-Cipher Op II		8 Sept. '70	20 Nov. '70

1st Division Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 32

Anglo-German Weekend and 50th Anniversary Celebrations

THOSE who have been stationed in Verden will know that an Annual Anglo-German Weekend is held. This is sometimes combined with a fete (money raising for charity being one of the aims).

This year it seemed appropriate to combine our weekend with the 50th Anniversary elebrations and ask the local population to help us mark the occasion. In addition we were, in common with other B.A.O.R. units, lucky to have a visit from the Corps Band and the White Helmets.

The weekend started on Saturday, 11th April, with the first rounds of an international soccer tournament, with teams from the local Bundeswehr, T.S.V. Verden and the Dutch Brigade, hosted by our own soccer enthusiasts.

That evening the Regiment gave a cocktail party in the Realschule, Verden, for our German friends and for the Officers of H.Q. 1st Division. The Corps Band arriving from Berlin—without much time to spare—helped to make the evening a great success. Meanwhile, in the Gymnasium the Dance Band Section played for a swinging junior ranks' dance which had been organised for the Regiment by 1 Squadron.

Sunday dawned fine and the sun shone (for almost the first time in Verden this year). The Annual Anglo-German Church Services were held in the old and splendid Verden Dom, and also in St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

The afternoon started with the finals of the soccer tournament between 41 (NL) Infantry Brigade and Seedorf Kaserne Zeven and ourselves, the result of a very close game only being decided in the closing minute when the Dutch scored to make it 1—0. At half-time the crowd were treated to a display of helicopter flying by **Sergeant Rowat** from 651 Squadron A.A.C.

OLD AND NEW
The White Helmets with the Verden Rathaus as a backdrop

A crowd of some 1,500 then watched a display by the Corps Band and the White Helmets. This was great entertainment and made a fitting close to the weekend.

During the afternoon the proceeds of the last Anglo-German weekend, totalling some DM. 2,500, were handed over to local charities. The G.O.C. 1st Division, **Major-General J. W. Harman, O.B.E., M.C.,** presented a cheque for D.M. 1,500 to the Organisation Lebenshilfe, which is a Local Home for Handicapped Children, and **Lieutenant-Colonel von Behr,** C.O. 32 (G.E.) Missile Regiment from Barme, handed over another for D.M. 1,000 to Aktion Friedensdorf which is a Children's Village for war-orphaned children.

SPORT

Hockey

When finally the snow cleared sufficiently the hockey team met the Blues and Royals (4th Division winners) in the B.A.O.R. semi-finals of the Army Hockey Cup but, despite our having played and won the Divisional final on the same ground, the opposition proved too strong and we lost 2—0. The Blues and Royals went on to win the B.A.O.R. final.

However, a consolation was the team's win in the 7th Armoured Brigade Winter Sports competition in which they won convincingly to return with the Victors' Shield. This result was repeated at Hohne on 11th April when the 'A' team won the 1st Division 6-a-side Hockey Competition and the 'B' team won the Plate Competition. This result means that the 'A' team qualifies for the B.A.O.R. competition on 9th May. We wish them luck. The other competition in which the team have done well is the Soltau Garrison League; currently they are well placed for the number one spot providing they win their last two games.

Orienteering

We almost won the Annual Divisional Orienteering Championship, scoring 510 points, equal with 1 Green Howards. However, as we had incurred some penalty points we had to be content with second place.

Our two teams consisted of our hard-running Adjutant, **Captain Richard Knox-Johnston,** with **R.Q.M.S. Colin Richardson. Corporal Lindsay Guerin** and **Signalman Alan Bullock** won the 'best Pair' prize.

Soccer

Our soccer team, like most others in B.A.O.R., has suffered from the weather but has emerged commendably as runners-up up the Soltau Garrison League. The team, ably managed by **R.S.M. John Turner** and trained by **Q.M.S.I. MacGregor Henley,** has had, due to postings, a large turnover. **Lance-Corporal 'Andy' Crouch,** of H.Q. Squadron, has played for B.A.O.R. as has **Corporal Johnny Halford** of 2 Squadron. We congratulate **Corporal Halford** on being awarded his B.A.O.R. Colours; he is currently touring with the B.A.O.R. team in U.K.

Other happenings

Well done the Verden Theatre Club for coming second in the Annual Rhine Army Amateur Drama Competition. Out of fourteen clubs who entered they attained the remarkable score of 86% and were beaten into second place by only one mark. The play, entitled 'JB,' portrayed an up-to-date version of the Book of Job and was produced by **Corporal Rodney West. Rod**—as he was known—has now left for a tour in Northern Ireland. The Regiment will miss his services, for apart from being a leading person in the drama world he put in many hours running the Club Centre, arranging Discotheques and even doing the decor for Officers' Mess functions. We wish him and his wife **Penny,** who gave him such good support, a happy and successful tour.

We congratulate **R.Q.M.S. Colin Richardson** on his promotion to W.O.I (R.S.M.) and wish him well. We have also said goodbye to **Captains Clem Palmer, Roy Edge** and our specialist messing officer and champion of rugby football, **Dougie Hathorn.** Another well-known personality who has left us is **S.S.M. Charlie Froggatt** who not unnaturally was pleased with his posting to Singapore.

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2nd Div. Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 22

AT this time the Regiment has just changed R.S.M.s. **Lieutenant Brian Cleaver** handed his pace stick to **W.O.I C. H. Richardson** and left for Hong Kong. The affection and the respect the Regiment had for the **Cleaver** family was demonstrated in part by the numerous parties, dinings out in both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes prior to their departure. **W.O.I Richardson** joins us from another Divisional Regiment and we would extend every welcome to him and his family.

A Popular Friend of the Regiment

It is appropriate that we should be able to report that M.S.O. **Chief Superintendent Danny Savic** was recently invested in Bonn with the M.B.E. **Danny** has for 20 years been the friend of recce officers, their mentor and guide. He has lost none of his Slavic charm. Hostile farmers, furious haus fraus and unco-operative Forst-meisters all respond to his persuasion and the Regiment is allowed into the farm, the house, the wood. Although not wearing a Signals cap badge, **Danny** is an integrated part of the Regiment and his crowded mail box indicates how much he is remembered by those officers who have served with him.

The association between the German civilians and the Regiment was made clear in two ways during the past month. A capacity crowd turned out in awful weather to watch a brave display by the Corps Band in frightful conditions.

Secondly, a German boy, **Jügen Meierhaus,** was presented during the Band Concert with a framed Commendation for Bravery by the G.O.C., **Major-General H. R. S. Pain.** The boy had made very gallant efforts to rescue soldiers of this Regiment trapped in a burning vehicle. It was a delighted boy who, with his family, were entertained in the Headquarter Mess.

FOLK SINGING TOO!

The Gentle Folk or (*left to right*) Corporal P. Ferns, Lance-Corporal J. Flynn, Signalman J. McAllister and Corporal P. Phillips. They will represent B.A.O.R. in the Army "Top of the groups" contest in London

Canoe Club—Corps very much to the fore

Some years ago it was decided that Corps canoeing should be arranged on a firm, well-run basis.

It was originally centred on 13th Signal Regiment under the direction of **Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Painter** who was then the Second-in-Command of the Unit.

When he was posted to the U.K. in 1966 it was suggested that this small beginning be continued and 2 Division Signal Regiment was invited to sponsor the sport.

Major John Russell first undertook this task and after a lot of hard work passed the job on to **Captain Martin Gray.** As an extremely proficient canoeist, **Captain Gray** developed the Regimental Club and put the B.A.O.R. organisation on a firm footing. At this time the Regiment was under the command of **Brigadier J. R. Cubberly** and a little later **Lieutenant-Colonel John Sturge.** Both are staunch supporters of Corps canoeing and to try and record the assistance they gave would be impossible.

In 1968, under the direction of **Lieutenant J. Theodorson,** the Club sent teams far and wide to places and races in Ireland, France, Belgium and of course England. These were all a great success and by the time **Captain Richard Harrison** took over everybody was raring to go for the new season. Along with the Club, **Captain Harrison** found he also had the remainder of B.A.O.R. Signals to cope with and the first success was a combination of 2nd Signal Regiment and 7th Signal Regiment for the 125-mile Devizes to Westminster race.

Success upon success all through the season right up to the Inter-Services Championships where nearly the whole team consisted of Royal Signals paddlers (and a very high proportion of those from this Regiment). Here are some of the names of those who helped us to such a good season: **Lance-Corporal Paw!ow, Lance-Corporal Wink, Corporal Alexander, Lance-Corporal Bull, Lance-Corporal Wilkinson, Lance-Corporal Hebdon** and **Corporal Bingham.**

Only last month the Regimental Club organised and ran the first-ever B.A.O.R. Slalom Championships. The turnout was fantastic and out of a total of 76 entries, 41 were Royal Signals paddlers from units all over Germany. To this we must also add the names of some of our new boys, **Signalman Bird** (our storeman), **Signalman McGrath** (the barman) and the up-and-coming paddlers **Signalmen Carter, McKendrick, Unwin** and **Buckler.**

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

IN this, our anniversary year, we sent best wishes to Signals units everywhere.

For previous members, we publish a list of the key appointments within the Regiment: C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan;** Second-in-Comand, **Major P. G. Rogers;** Adjutant, **Captain M. A. Thorne;** O.C. H.Q., **Major N. Read** (3 Q.D.G.); O.C. 1, **Major G. A. M. Holland;** O.C. 2, **Major D. P. Watson;** O.C. 3, **Major M. R. C. Weiner;** Traffic Officer, **Captain R. Finnister;** T.O.T. **Captain R. Lund;** P.R.I., **Major D. A. T. Butcher;** and R.S.M., **W.O.I G. E. Morrill.**

The last couple of months have been rather hectic, due to exercise commitments. Men were away so often that wives began to charge lodging fees. For a short period it looked as though the whole Regiment would be in Carter Barracks when **Sergeant Foster** and his band returned from Northern Ireland, but it was not to be. A party disappeared to Malaysia and 150 flew off to Cyprus (what has Cyprus got that Bulford hasn't?). Another 150 are off to the rocky shores of Cornwall for a couple of weeks, and it is planned to send the same number to the Isle of Man later in the year. If you are one of the roving kind, why not join us.

On the entertainments side, **Major Butcher** and his 'Tartan Badger' band of workers organised a fabulous cabaret show, which was enjoyed by one and all. One of the stars of the show was a gorgeous blonde singer named 'Tina,' who proved to be an immense attraction. **Corporal Bob Hutchinson** had to decline at least 30 offers of assistance to clean up the dressing rooms after the show.

During the month the Sergeants' Mess had a similar function and also had a luscious singer on view. **Sergeant John Young** was quite happy to have this beautiful girl crooning in his left ear until **Mrs. Young** sang a different tune in his right. Rumour has it he was deaf for a week.

We have said a fond farewell to **Major D. C. Woodbridge** (now Lieutenant-Colonel) who has departed to command 37th Signal Regiment (V) and welcome **Major P. G. Rogers** from the wilds of B.A.O.R. We trust that they will both have a successful and rewarding tour in their new appointments.

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

50th Birthday Celebrations

TIEING our celebrations to the two days on which the Band and White Helmets were with us, we celebrated our 50th birthday jointly with 7th Signal Regiment on 15th and 16th April. The weather was not as we would have chosen and regrettably one afternoon's entertainment was washed out.

However, tasked with arranging the celebrations the Second-in-Command, **Major Hartnett,** in true 4th Division fashion, called a committee meeting. "Right! H.Q. Squadron (**Major Clarke,** R.T.R.) you run the Potted Sports meeting and the Band Show. 2 Squadron (**Major Hunt**) I think your Squadron would make a good job of the Corporals' and Signalmen's Dance. 3 Squadron (**Major Hodgson**) I'm sure you'd like to organise the Band and Motor Cycle Display. Now 1 Squadron (**Major Verdon**) all we've got left is the Combined Officers' Supper Dance so you do that. The R.S.M. (**W.O.I Hill**) is fixing a Wine and Cheese Party in his Mess. Well, that's fine. I'll deal with the publicity—let me know if you have any problems. Thank you, gentlemen, now don't forget use minimum man-power to achieve a very high standard." That's how it started.

The preparations

These went without any undue snags and the Division and Herford Garrison were well aware that it was our 50th birthday year. We had birthday cards and signals containing both genuine greetings and invitations to "Get some in!" We also learned that the local Sapper Officers were planning a dinner to celebrate 50 years of riddance!

Potted sports

This started the two days' celebrations and proved a most entertaining afternoon with 15 teams toiling with 15 consecutive tasks demanding skill, strength, technique and speed. The fiendish tasks were dreamed up by **Major Stork, Q.M.S.I. Tye** and **Lance-Corporal Petrie** who, incidentally, is now adorned in the customary red and black sweater of an Assistant Instructor P.T. Seven of the teams were from 7th Signal Regiment, one from the Belgian Corps Signals Regiment and the balance from us. It was a riotous, noisy two hours and we hope the competitors enjoyed it as much as the many spectators who were sustained with a large quantity of hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream from **Captain Richards'** A.C.C. stall—its wares well presented and served with a smile by **Sergeant Doolan, Corporal Jakeman, Lance-Corporal Glover** and **Private Hardman.**

[*Photograph by Lieutenant G. J. Thomas*

THOSE POTTED SPORTS

Sergeant Drabble (*right*) watches to see that team number 2 does not cheat in this exhausting task. Team (*left to right*) Lance-Corporals Morgan, Polden, Driver Yemm, Signalmen Headlam, Gray, Fletcher and Buckberry

A great deal of interest focussed on the recorders as results were being totted up. Eventually our 3 Squadron team amassed sufficient points to beat 5 Squadron of 7th Signal Regiment into first place and 3 Squadron 7th Signal Regiment was placed third. **Lieutenant-Colonels Birtwistle** and **Stonham** presented each other's teams with their prizes, after which competitors strolled flat-footed to relax in a bath.

Combined display

A fine display by the White Helmets and the Band provided a memorable 'curtain raiser' to a cocktail party at which the Officers of both Regiments officially entertained local dignitaries, senior representatives of other Corps and Senior Officers. This evening's entertainment took place in Maresfield Barracks before a large and appreciative audience.

Corporals and Signalmen give it rice!

The ingredients for a good dance are well known to most people and we now know that 2 Squadron are not devoid of this knowledge. All the usual difficulties were overcome and we reckon the dance was a resounding success—it went on an hour longer than planned so that means either the band was good or the liquid refreshments flowed well, or both! There was no lack of helpers for all the numerous preparations with **Squadron Sergeant Major Common** being the guiding light keeping everyone calm in adversity and his quiet confidence never waivered! **Sergeant Cadman** has become an expert on lighting and is leaving us to deal with the Blackpool illuminations next year—child's play, he reckons, just a few bulbs plus a 10 KVA! The decorations in the gym were really a combined effort with all 2 Squadron having a go—**Lance-Corporal Budden** and **Lance-Corporal Hynd** were even seen scaling wall bars to get the right effect—unheard of in P.T. **Lance-Corporal Topping** supervised the best use of hot air—blowing up balloons and the psycadelic effects produced by **Driver Richings** and **Signalman Hurrel** had to be seen to be believed and even then belief was difficult although **Lieutenant Burgess** thought the final effect was very 'with it.' And so it started **Staff Sergeant Stogdale** and **Sergeant Ford** making excellent Masters of Ceremony although whilst the Band played twist and pops they were on a winning wicket!

"I'll get the girls," said **Captain Lance**—he always seems to have 'contacts' and he was as good as his word.

Was it coincidence that **Lance-Corporal Budden** won the crate of beer in the free beer raffle—after all that was also organised by 2 Squadron and talking of raffles we must thank **Mrs. Stogdale** for her sterling efforts in selling so many tickets —we would certainly have ended up turning out our trouser pockets or diving into Squadron funds without her efforts. **Staff Sergeant Orton** and **Sergeant Cottillard** did sterling service 'supervising' the buffet, and once again thanks must go to the cooks for their really excellent buffet—over 400 meals were served in under an hour. Well, all good things have to come to an end and so after the hour's extension we came to the end of another function in our celebrations.

Band show

The Globe Cinema proved accoustically near perfect for the Band to show us all they knew, and there weren't many vacant seats as they struck up. The audience obviously approved of their performance and choice of programme. We understood after the show that the Director of Music is sometimes hesitant about interrupting his show for a 'smoke-break' in case of noticeable audience reduction during the interval. Our appreciation was obviously felt by the Band, as we gather the Director had no hesitation in giving the nicotinists their break. It gave us great pleasure both to hear our Band and also to let our guests enjoy the pleasure of such a polished and entertaining performance.

Second display washed out

Captain Evis's Staff Troop strived relentlessly to fulfil the changing plans, as the weather put a damper on our original ideas to stage a second combined display, this time in Wentworth Barracks.

As this performance was principally designed to entertain families, children and the local people, we were very reluctant to make the final decision to cancel. The Second-in-Command spent a very unpleasant hour explaining the decision. Needless to say, the children were most disappointed of all, and the best we could do was to make a liberal circulation of White Helmets lapel badges to the pupils of our B.F.E.S. School.

Officers' family party

The night following our official entertainment party, the officers of 7th Signal Regiment and their ladies joined our officers and ladies for a 'family' supper-dance. Our Mess lends itself very well to such a party, which was centred on the well-known Rotunda. The only official guests at this function were **Colonel** and **Madame Leclerq,** from the Belgian Corps Signal Regiment. We trust that **Captain** and **Mrs. Boulding** and **Captain Rowe** felt part of the 'family' that evening.

Following a few drinks, the dining room doors opened to expose a spread which surpassed anything seen in the Mess for a long time. **'Q' Hothersall, Sergeant Robinson** and their assistants had really turned up trumps. The supper, in a very relaxing atmosphere, was a longer interlude between drinking and dancing than had been anticipated, but was most certainly enjoyed by all. **Lieutenant Thomas** literally 'flashed' around with his camera, capturing some 'Tatler'-like shots.

The Signals Combo Band took no time to get the dancing in full swing and the floor was full for the last dance—the proverbial high note on which to end.

Sergeants' Mess make merry

The other band group or dance section, 'Jimmies' Jazz Men,' went to our Sergeants' Mess, who also enjoyed a family party. **R.S.M. Hill** had a sleepless night or two wondering what would happen if everyone of his Mess members and their ladies appeared on the night! As many readers will know, the Mess has a very large membership, not only accommodating Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment Seniors, but those of the Aviation Regiment, numerous local minor units and garrison personnel.

However, all was well on the night, and about 200 wined, dined and danced. When asked for names of personalities who did a party trick, our scribe was informed that no one jumped through a window or anything exciting, everyone just enjoyed themselves.

Lethargy—the morning after!

A Friday followed our two days of celebrating and, judging by reactions on that day, a good time had been had by all—the only regret being that the afternoon combined display had to be cancelled.

We all very much enjoyed having our Band and the White Helmets with us, and hope they enjoyed their stay in Herford. When can they came again?

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

Two very good days' entertainment

APRIL saw the Regiment celebrating our 50th anniversary. Since we share Herford with 4th Signal Regiment, we decided to combine, and the result was two very good days' entertainment. Considering the time of year, we were very lucky to have only one event cancelled because of the weather.

Our celebrations started with a superb band concert given by the Royal Signals Band. The Globe Cinema was packed to capacity and people were even standing in the aisles. Lunch was followed by a highly-organised 'potted sports' competition (rather like the television programme 'It's a knockout') at Hammersmith Barracks. Teams were entered from each Squadron of both Regiments, the Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and our Belgium 'Sister' Regiment, 4 Troup De Transmission. After an entertaining afternoon for the spectators, 3 Squadron, 4th Signal Regiment, ran out winners, with 5 Squadron, 7th Signal Regiment, runners-up.

Grandstands had been built and masses of chairs placed alongside the Regimental square by **R.Q.M.S.s Judge** and **Moynan** in preparation for the early evening entertainment. At 18.00 hours, the Band, led by **Captain Keith Boulding,** marched on to the parade ground, and for the next hour we were treated to a superb display by the White Helmets, with both groups coming together for the Retreat ceremony.

It was during the Motor Cycle display that **Major (Retd.)** and **Mrs. J. J. Moynan,** who were visiting their son, **R.Q.M.S. D. M. Moynan,** realised that their eldest grandson was riding in the display, and as this was the first time they had seen such a show, one can imagine their elation on discovering **Signalman S. Moynan** participating.

The Retreat ceremony was followed by cocktail parties in the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Messes, to which both military and civilian dignitaries from the garrison and Herford were invited.

During the party in the Sergeants' Mess, the guests from 4 TTR made a very handsome presentation of a plaque and pennant to the Mess, whereupon, the P.M.C., **W.O.II T. Cushen,** majestically produced some regimental ties, which the R.S.M., **W.O.I M. E. Wilson,** duly presented to the guests and persuaded them to wear them right away. **Chef Paturioux** made an excellent speech in reply to the R.S.M. and the party continued until the small hours.

On the second day events started with a 'crazy' rugby match by teams from the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes versus the Regimental team, refereed by the Commanding Officer. This was followed by a local soccer derby between 1 and 5 Squadrons.

The celebrations were rounded off by two very successful dances. One was for the officers and ladies of 4th and 7th Signal Regiments in the 4th Signal Regiment Officers' Mess. The other was for all the corporals, signalmen, their wives and girl friends, held in a large gymnasium at Holzausen. The dance was organised by 5 Squadron senior N.C.O.s ably led by **W.O.II P. L. Harrison.** An excellent buffet was prepared for this occasion by **Staff Sergeant Wood** (A.C.C.) and his staff, and the music for dancing was provided by the dance band of 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

Soccer

We have at last completed our league programme and must now await the results of other teams in order to see if we have won the league title or are to be runners-up (on goal average).

During the season we have lost only one match—our Army Cup tie against our close rivals 5 Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, though our last six league matches have been rather hair-raising to put it mildly. In each of these games we have had to come back from being at least one goal down to win; a fact which speaks well for the excellent team spirit which has been a feature of the side this season.

In the earlier part of the season we were able to field an extremely strong side but unfortunately we have had to manage the latter part without the services of **Sergeant 'Archie' Hancox, Lance-Corporal Gary Denham, Lance-Corporal Phil Maddison and Lance-Corporal Lenny Hunt,** all of whom contributed so much and who were posted at a crucial time.

Luckily we managed to find an alternative combination to fit into our 4-2-4 plan and such players as **Lance-Corporal 'Mick' Skitt, Signalman 'Geordie' Rutherford, Signalman Geoff Toogood, Lance-Corporal 'Ice' Linton, Signalman 'Ed' Tolley** and **Signalman 'Geordie' Hannah** have all given good service when called upon.

Our regular players such as **Staff Sergeant Len Green** in goal, and **Lance-Corporal 'Sandy' Sandison** and **Signalman Terry Burton** in defence, have provided a strong last line, whilst **Corporal Graham Mills** and **Corporal 'Jock' McPhee** have provided craft and thought in the midfield. Up front the drive and penetration of **Corporal Bob Daforno, Corporal Dave Lester, Corporal Colin Beston** and **Signalman Geoff Ruffer** have tied up many opposing defences, and during the season have all played consistently well.

We have had three players selected to represent B.A.O.R.—**Corporal Daforno, Corporal McPhee** and **Lance-Corporal Beston;** unfortunately **Corporal McPhee** had to cry off through injury but without doubt he will get another chance, as should **Signalman Burton** who, despite his size, must be rated one of the fastest and hardest tackling defenders in the league. It is of interest to note that in the match for which he was selected **Lance-Corporal Beston** scored all three of the B.A.O.R. team's goals.

Our club room continues to amass further 'bits and pieces' for decoration, and must surely be one of the best in B.A.O.R.

During the season we have had football quizzes and film shows, and the latest form of entertainment is video tape recordings of big matches.

Also leaving us is our football officer, **Major Tom Blashill** (going to manage Bournemouth or something!)—his place is to be taken by **Lieutenant Paul White**—a very keen player and football fanatic.

Throughout the season we have had a lot of interest shown in soccer, and our thanks go to those who were able to help us 'off the field'—our supporters, **Staff Sergeant Morris** from the Q.M.'s department, **Staff Sergeant Pete Cairns** i/c admin., **Corporal Barsley,** whose gnome-like figure has frequently administered a wet sponge (soaked in brandy I think), **Lance-Corporal Moody** (our official photographer) and everyone else who has helped out in the football club.

A detailed list of goalscorers is as follows: **Gary Denham** 19, **'Geordie' Beston** 11, **Bob Daforno** 10, **Dave Lester** 9 (all with his left foot), **Geoff Ruffer** 8, **'Jock' McPhee** 5, **Isaac Linton** 4, **Graham Mills** 3 (a hat-trick in his last game) and **'Geordie' Laws** 1 goal.

Hockey

The Regiment has two teams now, and both have made such an impression that other units are asking for matches with either the 1st or 2nd XI.

The 1st XI are still top of the league in their area and have lost only one game, and with only two more league games to play it looks like being quite a fair finish to the season. A lot of this success is of course due to the energetic and hard-working Officer i/c, **Major R. Pepper,** R.A.P.C., who has worked wonders in getting the team together for all their games, and even to the extent of getting them back from one exercise for an Army Cup game.

The Regiment is still in the middle of the Page Trophy Tournament and many people were surprised to see one of the favourites, 'Kilo' Troop, knocked out in the first round by H.Q. Squadron. This brought many sighs of relief from the other Troops.

Rugby

The rugby season ended with the 4th Division 7-a-side competition on 25th April and the B.A.O.R. competition the following Saturday.

The results showed just how small the margin is between the top teams and at the same time emphasised the old adage that 50 per cent of a Rugby Sevens game is a matter of inches rather than yards.

The 4th Division competition started well when our 'B' team won the Plate Competition. This was capped in the final by the 'A' team beating the Welsh Guards (who are at present Army XV champions) by two tries to one.

In the B.A.O.R. Sevens the 'A' side beat the Royal Regiment of Wales in the semi-final and then again met the Welsh Guards. Unfortunately history did not repeat itself and this time the Guards beat us by two tries to one.

When all the immediate disappointment had gone and a little rationality had returned (good old Alka Seltzer) it is not difficult to realise how good the end of the 1969-70 season has been as a curtain-raiser for next year's 15-a-side.

We therefore look forward to 1st September (a tour of Copenhagen is being discussed) and to the start of training on 1st July.

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

Golden Jubilee

TO mark the Corps Anniversary in the Hounslow area, the Regiment staged a number of events which have left a memorable imprint—thanks to the excellent showing of the Corps Band, under **Captain Keith Boulding,** and the White Helmets under **Captain Barry Rowe.**

The combined display, before the Mayor of Hounslow, was followed by a combined military and civic reception, and the Display Team's impact was best summed up in the local press: "The passport is courage in this daredevil outfit; they make Hell's Angels look like characters from a 'Noddy' adventure."

Subsequently, at an impressive church ceremony, supported outstandingly well by the Corps Band, a Corps window was dedicated. Other functions have included a light-hearted and excellent band concert and Regimental dances.

Silver cups

Our Regimental trophies have been augmented, notably by the successes of the football team under **Seregant Jones,** supported by such stalwarts as **Signalman Roberts** and **Signalman Reeder.** We now proudly display the London District Premier Cup as the winners, with the Irish, Scots and Welsh Guards in the second, third and fourth places. In addition, our team were the outright winners of the London Area Civilian League Cup and the medals that go with it.

Commanding Officer's Sinking Fund

It is not every day that a Signalman gets the opportunity to make his presence unmistakably felt by a Commanding Officer.

However, **Signalman Childs** and **Lieutenant-Colonel David Barker** ended up full fathoms five at the bottom of the River Thames on one of the wettest and windiest days recently, when the Regimental sailing boat decided it had had enough exercise. The charge sheet will probably read: "Conduct to the prejudice in that when told to turn to port he turned starboard and then turtle."

A C.-in-C.'s Reprimand

By the same token, it is not every day that Corporals get the opportunity to admonish Commanders-in-Chief—in this case, **General Sir Michael Carver. Corporals Clarke** and **Sanders,** of our M.T. Troop, were recently given the task of teaching Army Cadets how to become proficient motor-cyclists as part of the Southern Command Junior Leadership Course, and had arranged a special obstacle course competition for the Cadets during the C.in-C.'s visit. **General Carver** joined the riders and set off round the obstacles on his machine in a style which would have assured him of a place in the Corps Display Team. It was at this stage in the proceedings that **Corporal Sanders** flagged the C.-in-C. down, mistaking him for a Cadet, and served out a sharp rocket, which was accepted with due penitence and good humour.

London District Shoot

Our team, under **R.S.M. Thom,** achieved a creditable second placing in the District Minor Units Cup, and **Sergeant Cavanagh,** our M.T. Sergeant, featured well to get a prize in the individual results.

Public Address coverage

The magnitude and extent of demands placed on the Corps for PA facilities is not a facet of the Corps role which always gets the recognition that it merits. Examples from this month of the work done by only one of our five SWS Troops follow. At the Amalagamation Parade of the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters before **H.R.H. Princess Anne,** our team, consisting of **Sergeant Phillips, Lance-Corporal Coulam** and **Lance-Corporal Scott,** not only handled the Royal address, but came to the rescue of the B.B.C., who borrowed our tapes when their sound arrangements broke down. **Lieutenant-Colonel (T.O.T.) Eric Thompson** handled the recording of a speech by the **Duchess of Gloucester** at Kensington Palace for subsequent dubbing on to film. Other commitments in the same time bracket included an address by the **Duchess of Kent** to the W.R.A.C. Association; addresses by the **Duke of Kent** and Minister of Defence at the War Graves Commission Centenary, and by **Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templar** at the opening of the National Army Museum.

Finally, there was the coverage for the T.O.-in-C.'s annual conference, whilst preparations go ahead now for the Tidworth Tattoo and Aldershot Display.

Visits

Brigadier Dame Mary Anderson has paid the Regiment a brief, but welcome visit in this period, and saw our W.R.A.C. drivers, who handle the SDS minivans day by day in the thickest London rush-hour conditons with their bumpers largely 'unbumped.'

Awards

Our warmest congratulations go to two of our civilian complement, **Mr. N. W. Kinson,** of our Taunton SWS Troop, and **Mrs. L. A. Bridges,** of our London Signal Troop, on their award of the Imperial Service Medal.

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11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

LIFE in 11th Signal Regiment goes on much as before, with two recruit pass-offs in the month of April.

On 3rd April, 41 men of Nos. 4 and 8 Troops passed off on a parade commanded by **Captain Roy Simmons**, O.C. CT Troop, and inspected by **Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. G. R. Russell,** Commanding Officer of the Royal Irish Rangers, one of 6th Brigade's Battalions, residing in Catterick.

The best recruit in No. 4 Troop was **Signalman Robert Lake** from Poole, in Dorset. An ex-Air Cadet and speedway fan, he goes on to train as a radio operator.

Signalman David Doust, from London, passed off top of No. 8 Troop, and he goes on to 8th Signal Regiment to train as a lineman.

The 17th, a fine, mild day, saw Nos. 1 and 5 Troops pass off under the eagle eye of **Major-General The Earl Cathcart, D.S.O., M.C.,** G.O.C. Yorkshire District. This was the first pass-off parade for O.C. 1 Troop, **Second-Lieutenant Tony Kimber,** newly-arrived in the Regiment from 19th Signal Regiment and the last for some time for O.C. 5 Troop, **Lieutenant John Speakes,** who now commands the Regiment's adventure training camp in Scarborough.

The best recruit of No. 1 Troop was **Signalman David Dicks,** from Rhyll, who goes on to train as a lineman, whilst top of No. 5 Troop was **Signalman John Tindall,** from Whitehaven, in Cumberland, a very keen table tennis player, who also goes on to 8th Signal Regiment to train as a technician.

Brigadier W. M. H. Roberts, O.B.E., Commander, 6th Infantry Brigade, was the Inspecting Officer at the pass-off on Friday, 1st May.

The best recruits were **Signalman Thompson,** of 3 Troop and **Signalman McIlveney,** of 6 Troop. **Signalman Thompson** was also the best recruit rifle shot.

Signalman Thompson comes from Stoke Newington, London. Before joining the Army he worked as a hearing-aid technician. How now goes to 24th Signal Regiment for training as a radio operator.

Signalman McIlveney comes from Glenshee. He worked in the hotel industry before enlisting. His ambition is to become a clerk technical.

Older readers of THE WIRE will be interested to know that the custom of giving the best recruits a match box cover still continues. One wonders how many of the best recruits of the twenties and thirties still have their match box covers and whips.

Changes are the order of the day

The month of April saw a number of moves in the Regiment, and it was with some sadness that we said goodbye to:

Major Dick Trelawny, ex-O.C. 2 Squadron, who joins 14th Signal Regiment.

Captain Ivan Double, ex-Assistant Chief Instructor, who joins 94th Locating Regiment, R.A., in Germany, to command 639 Troop.

Lieutenant John Hayes, ex-O.C. 1 Troop, who is now sunning himself in Singapore.

Last, but not least, **Lieutenant Jenny Baker,** W.R.A.C., our Assistant Adjutant, who has joined 16th Regiment, in Krefeld (lucky fellows!).

We are also missing **Lieutenant 'Gus' Vigurs** and family, who have been banished to command the adventure training camp at Culty Braggan in the wilds of Scotland.

To balance these losses, however, we welcome the following new faces to Helles Barracks:

Lieutenant Lesley Day, W.R.A.C., who cames all the way from 8th Regiment to be our new 'Ack Adj.'

W.O.I Laing, who left 14th Regiment to take over a recruit troop in 1 Squadron.

Sergeant Morris, who has joined Instructional Wing, and **Lance-Corporals Kirkham** and **Hodges,** who have joined 1 Squadron.

Finally, **Lieutenant Peter Morgan,** who also joins 1 Squadron as a recruit troop commander and brings that Squadron's total number of subalterns up to ten!

Could this be a record?

Police Cadets entertained

The Regiment was surprisingly law abiding during April, for twice during the month O.R. 1 Troop played hosts to parties of police cadets from the Durham Police Cadet Training School.

These visits, each lasting two weeks, involved the cadet undergoing a 'potted' recruit training course on weapons, field-craft, P.T., drill (Army style) with escape and evasion exercises, run by **Lieutenant Kemp,** adding a little spice.

All the visitors seemed very impressed with the way our recruits go through their training, and although they left us looking more 'soldier-like' than when they arrived, there were no offers to change the blue uniform for a khaki one—not yet anyway.

Social events

There have been two outstanding social occasions during the month. The first was on Tuesday, 28th April, when the W.O.Is of the Brigade dined in the Mess as the guests of the officers. Apart from the excellent performance of our band, the highlight of the evening was when the officers' team beat the guests soundly at a boat race. **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe's** prowess at sinking a pint of beer gave a lead which the warrant officers could not make good. Afterwards, one R.S.M. was heard to remark that since the military salary, Sergeants' Messes had converted to 'Glen Fiddich' and were out of practice on beer!

Lieutenant Roger Howard decided that in the take-over of 24th Regiment by 8th Regiment, the latter should not obtain all the valuable assets. On Saturday, 2nd May, he married **Lieutenant Kathryn Johnson,** of 24th Regiment. The wedding took place in St. Martin's Church, and the reception was held in the Mess. The happy couple left for honeymoon in the Lake District, but, after a few miles, due to a mechanical breakdown, decided that Whinny Hill was just as good as the lakes. Our best wishes for a long and happy marriage go to them both.

Sergeants' Mess notes

The Garrison Winter Games League has now ended, with the Mess having its best season for many years. Four team cups were won—Darts Singles League Cup; Darts Doubles League Cup; Cribbage League Cup, and the Overall League Cup, which is presented by R.A.F., Catterick. In addition, **W.O.II Brian O'Neill** and **Sergeant Ken Sixsmith** won the Darts Doubles Championship Cup and **Sergeant Jimmy Hewson** and **Staff Sergeant Geoff Cowling,** R.A.P.C., were runners-up in the dominoes championship.

Rugby

Another season has now drawn to a close with the Regimental XV enjoying a fair amount of success, especially against civilian clubs. We have played some 30 fixtures, winning 11, drawing three and losing 16. In addition to our efforts in the 15-a-side game, our 'B' team, comprising **Lieutenant-Nigel Fairley, Corporal 'Duffer' Kenyon, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Mudie, Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Hamilton,** our versatile winger, **Signalman Pete Morton** and two young potential officers, **Signalman Grossmith** and **Signalman Dickson,** won the Northern Command Seven-a-Side Plate and the Northumbrian District Cup.

The annual competition for the Jackson Trophy was held in ideal weather for rugby, with some ten teams entered. By good fortune and some dubious tactics, H.Q. Squadron won their way into the final, going down by 9 points to nil to a much fitter and younger 1 Squadron (Cadre).

The end of the season also means that some well-known faces will not be seen next season. **Corporal Steve Barnett** and **Captain Richard Gravestock,** our half-backs in many important games, will be continuing their careers in Germany and Warminster. **Lieutenant Charles Kemp** goes to R.M.C.S., where his straight running will no doubt cause problems.

Our thanks must go to **Mr. Alfred Buttons,** who has the job of cleaning our kit, and although we are perhaps not the best rugby team in the district, we are, without doubt, the smartest.

HOME OWNERSHIP

Widespread publicity has been given to the acute shortage of funds for house purchase loans, and **would-be** HOME OWNERS who did not make positive plans well ahead found it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

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In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

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

Regimental 'At Home'

LIKE most other units of the Corps in B.A.O.R., April has been an extremely busy month, with the visit of the Corps Band and the Motor Cycle Display Team.

Our main celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Corps took place on Wednesday, 22nd April, when we held our Regimental 'At Home.'

We used this opportunity of showing off the Corps by inviting all our local German and Dutch neighbours to attend and also to help raise funds for our new proposed swimming pool. We were delighted with the attendance, some two thousand people were present. As well as the Corps Band and the White Helmets, we had other displays and numerous sideshows, produced by members of the Regiment.

The celebrations really started on the evening of Tuesday, 21st April, when the Corps Band came down from Krefeld to give us a really excellent concert in our cinema. Their programme was varied and most polished, with the Director of Music, **Captain Keith Boulding** ably plugging the Band's new record in between numbers; if the record doesn't make the top ten, it certainly won't be for lack of advertising.

Our 'At Home,' the next day, began with a helicopter display by **Staff Sergeant Gordon Blackman,** from 655 Aviation Flight —a Corps man piloting a Westland Scout, borrowed from 131 Aviation Flight at Wildenrath.

This was followed by a musical gymnastic display, given by the girls of W Troop, who demonstrated how enjoyable P.T. can really be, especially to the spectator.

The experts then took the field and we had a tumbling display by five members of the Army Physical Training Corps; this was really a short preview of what is to come at the Royal Tournament later this year, as they are all scheduled to appear there. Most spectacular of these experts was **Staff Sergeant Instructor Wilson,** who represents Great Britain, the Army, and who came second in the World Tumbling Championships, and also our own **Sergeant Instructor Peter Scales.**

Next to appear was a team of dog-handlers from R.A.F. Wildenrath, with their dogs, who convinced everyone present that the only safe way to get into R.A.F. Wildenrath is through the main gate. A local newspaper photographer very quickly found out that the dogs cannot discriminate between press and others, when he got too close to the dogs to take some photographs—luckily for him, the dogs were well-trained and were called off before they reached their 'quarry.'

The highlights of the afternoon were, of course, the Corps Band and the Motor Cycle Display Team, who once again gave faultless displays—the Band by their musical professionalism and the Motor Cycle Team by their precision and daring. All our guests were most impressed by both, and we were proud to know that they were 'ours.'

HOLD THAT TIGER!
Captain Rowe of the Corps display team makes a spectacular landing after the fire jump at 13th Regiment's "At Home"

Outside the arena there was great competition between the various stallholders to see who could make the biggest profit for the Regimental swimming pool.

We understand the odds in the 1 Squadron casino were heavily in their favour, and the workshops flashing lights and electrical gadgets confused everyone so much, they gave willingly. The question still being asked is who was the model who posed for the photographs on the Camera Club stall. **Major Len Rogers** is still disappointed that nobody bought his paintings, which were displayed on the Art Club stall—look out the National Gallery.

The 'At Home' ended with the Corps Band playing Retreat and the national anthems of Holland, Germany and Great Britain.

In the evening there was a dance in the Junior Ranks' Club, with Jimmy's Jazz Band providing the music, but we understand they were so good, nobody bothered to dance, they just wanted to listen.

Visits

You may remember our report of the visits to the Sofia-Jacoba coalmine in the last issue of THE WIRE, well, we have just received the photographs showing members of the Regiment in their mining kit.

THE DIRTY DOZEN
The soldiers of 13th Regiment who went coal mining

The next outing, to the Dortmund Actien Brewery, one of the biggest breweries in the world, is planned for 9th June. We have it on good authority that it is easier to get a Cup Final ticket than it is to be picked as one of the lucky thirty for this visit.

Canoeing

On 24th April, **Corporal Ray Austin,** A.C.C., **Private John Coulthard,** R.P.C., and **Signalman Neil Mapp** took part in the B.A.O.R. Canoe Slalom Championship. Although the three are relatively new to canoeing, having only just gained their proficiency awards, they did extremely well; **Corporal Austin** managing to finish in fourth place—a sterling effort.

We now have a permanent canoeing base at Swalman, in Holland, and the sport is again catching on in the Regiment.

Football

As the end of the season draws near, we say goodbye to **Staff Sergeant Cyril Harding,** who leaves the Regiment soon to join 11th Signal Regiment. **Staff Sergeant Harding** has looked after the football team for three years, during which time he has devoted hours of his own time in training and watching them.

His cheerful face will be missed by players and spectators alike next season. We wish **Staff Sergeant** and **Mrs. Harding** every success in their new posting.

Football Colours for last season have been awarded to **Corporal Ron Clay** and **Lance-Corporal John Kirk,** and to **Staff Sergeant Cyril Harding** for his excellent support and management of the team.

Rugby

Our seven-a-side rugby team has reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Sevens by virtue of reaching the semi-finals of the Rhine Area Sevens—a good finish to a successful season. Regimental Colours for this season were awarded to **Staff Sergeant Dave Brown, Corporal Mick Jackson** and **Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Williams.**

Basketball

The basketball team has had a very successful season, winning the Rhine Area League most convincingly, and also the Rhine Area section of the B.A.O.R. Knockout Cup.

With only two members of the team posted out before next season and a few more players posted in, we should be able to take the league again next season.

Basketball colours for the '69/'70 season were awarded to **Sergeant Mick Crane, Sergeant Instructor Pete Scales, Corporal Dave Wiseman, Lance-Corporal Mike Crosby** and **Signalman Colin Gibson.**

Hockey

The hockey team managed to get a place in the B.A.O.R. seven-a-side hockey finals in Dortmund next month.

Captain Melody Greene, Lance-Corporal Ann Laughton and **Lance-Corporal Normanna Hendry** represented the W.R.A.C. (B.A.O.R.) hockey team which played a draw against the W.R.A.F. (Germany) team.

Regimental Colours for the past season were awarded to **Corporal Stan Cribbett,** for the men's team, and **Captain Melody Greene, Lance-Corporal Ann Laughton** and **Lance-Corporal Normanna Hendry** for the women's team.

14th Signal Regiment, Worcester

Freedom Weekend, 2nd/3rd May

MANY of the Corps, particularly the younger members, may not realise that 14th Signal Regiment was, in 1966, to mark the Corps' 25 years of association with the City of Gloucester, given the honour of the Freedom to enter that city with 'swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating.'

Though the Regiment has now moved to Worcester, we are nonetheless very proud of our connection with Gloucester, and exercise this privilege, which is unique in the Corps, each spring.

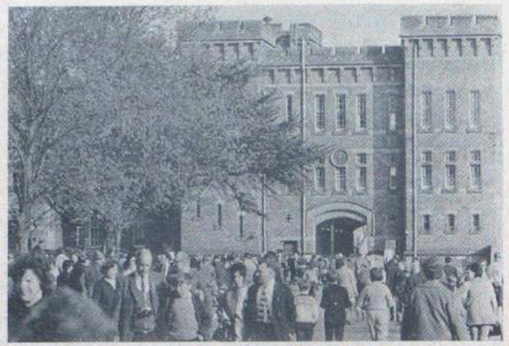
This year it was decided that, in addition to exercising this Freedom, it was time for the Regiment to open its gates and show the citizens of our new home city—Worcester—some aspects of work and play within the unit and the Army generally.

Thus a full weekend was organised, Saturday, 2nd May, in Worcester, and Sunday, 3rd, in Gloucester. What an outstanding success it turned out to be.

Saturday, 2nd May

In Norton Barracks, the accent was on things military. There is little doubt that the majority of the three thousand people who visited us enjoyed the respite from the usual fun fair and stalls that so often go with a day out at this time of year. Our guests examined, with detailed interest, the accommodation and recreational facilities (indeed the village hall—our club—was so well 'inspected' that it ran out of beer!). Many of our visitors had tea in the soldiers' dining room, and all reported most favourably.

The static display of communications equipment, which included TSC 500, D13 and E21 stations, as well as the many fascinating features of 'Quicksilver'—the Corps display from the School—was particularly popular with the public. Many asked detailed questions which, in themselves, showed a keen interest in the communication problems of the modern Army.



VISITORS BY THE THOUSAND

Part of the general scene inside Norton Barracks. Some of the three thousand visitors near the Keep on the 2nd of May

A helicopter, complete with a Royal Signals crew, appealed greatly to the youngsters. After asking seemingly endless questions, they were delighted to see the aircraft take off and return to its base.

The movement of this helicopter signalled the end of the static display and the start of more active events. It was action all the way, with the White Helmets, the Corps Motor Cycle Display Team, who thrilled all present with their popular and polished display of motor cycle acrobatics. The appreciation of their efforts was somewhat registered in the fact that a collection for the Corps Benevolent Fund, taken during the display, raised over £40.

Following a slick demonstration of aerial erections by teams from 1 and 2 Squadrons, the Corps Band, under the Director of Music, **Captain K. Boulding,** played Retreat. There can have been few present who were not moved by the combination of the superbly-played music, the scarlet uniforms of the musicians, the slow, almost gentle, lowering of the Union Jack and Corps flags, which had flown so proudly above the Keep in the setting sun—all of which added up to make a dignified spectacle that will long be remembered.

With our Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** taking the salute as the band marched off, the day, for the general public, ended. 14th Signal Regiment had been on show. The people of Worcester had seen the new tenants of their county barracks. They went away more informed, perhaps thrilled, and, we feel confident, impressed. For the members of the Regiment, so ably supported by the rare combination of the Band, the White Helmets and 'Quicksilver' being at the same show together, the hard work and effort seemed so easy now.

Sunday, 3rd May

After an early lunch, the Regiment moved to Gloucester. Again we were blessed with a lovely day, and as one approached the city, the sight of the magnificent cathedral towering up in the clear blue sky, can only have impressed on everyone the honour and dignity of the occasion.

The Commemoration Service began with the Corps Trumpeters combining with the Cathedral organ in a rendering of the 'Homage Fanfare' to welcome the civic procession to our service. This was followed by the Band playing the hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell.' The combined majesty of both the music and the surroundings set the standard for a truly memorable service.

Then followed the march through the city, which symbolised the 'Freedom to Enter,' for it was, indeed, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed and drums beating that the City of Gloucester saw the 14th Signal Regiment. Led by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Baker** and supported by the Corps Band, the Regiment put a final touch of pride and polish to the weekend as it swung past the Guildhall and the ceremonial dais, on which the Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor L. R. Jones, supported by the S.O.-in-C., took the salute.

FREEDOM EXERCISED

The Regiment exercising its Freedom to Enter the City of Gloucester, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Baker, supported by the Adjutant and the R.S.M. lead the Regiment past the saluting base and through the city

After the parade, the Colonel and a cross-section of all ranks of the Regiment, ably supported by their wives, entertained the Gloucester City civic dignitaries, military V.I.P.s and other guests to tea. So the weekend ended, and as the Regiment dispersed to return to its more normal duties, all ranks knew that a good job had indeed been done.

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

Our Jubilee Celebrations

WE took the opportunity of the visits of the Corps Band and Motor Cycle Display Team, to include them in our celebration of this our Corps Jubilee Year. On the morning of 19th April a combined service was held in the gymnasium. A congregation of over one thousand was led by the director of music, **Captain Keith Boulding,** the Corps Band and the Krefeld Singers. B.F.B.S. recorded the service and we hope that it will be broadcast on the Sunday closest to the Corps Anniversary.

In the afternoon, miraculously a fine one, a combined display from the Band and **Captain Barry Rowe's** White Helmets entertained Stadt dignitaries from St. Tonis and Krefeld, and the citizens of both towns. The show was given by both 28th and 16th Signal Regiments, and **Lieutenant-Colonels Ian Macdonald** and **Bob Pope** entertained their German guests at a reception afterwards.

Time of bereavement

Throughout the months of February and April the Regiment attentively sought news of the health of **Major Jim Hewson.** He lay very seriously ill with cancer in R.A.F. Hospital, Wegberg. It was with a great sense of loss and universally felt grief that we heard of his death in the early hours of Monday, 28th April.

We were able to give some indication of our regard for 'Big Jim' by according him the honour of a military funeral with a service at our own chapel here in the barracks on 4th May. Soldiers from his own Squadron formed the greater part of the escort. They performed their dolorous duty extremely well and none who were privileged enough to be present could have been left unmoved. The courage of **Jane Hewson,** the widow, will always be an example to us all.

A new R.S.M.

In the midst of our grief, our new R.S.M. arrived and began his unenviable task of taking over from **R.S.M. Peberdy.** From the reports of the 'goings on' at the old R.S.M.'s dining out, **R.S.M. Gittins** seems to have wasted little time in taking the reins. I hope **R.S.M. Pebery's** taste of a spell in his own cells was a salutory one.

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment Seremban, Malaysia

17th Division

IN January, 1948, the first Gurkha soldiers arrived in Malaysia, and they, with some British units, formed 17th Gurkha Infantry Division, named after the old 17th Indian Division. Its headquarters was at Seremban.

After Merdeka, in August, 1957, H.Q., Malaya Command and 17th Gurkha Infantry Division reorganised in Seremban as H.Q., 17th Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces (OCLF).

Confrontation with Indonesia came in 1962 and that year H.Q. 17th Gurkha Division re-formed as a separate entity and moved to Borneo, the Headquarters in Seremban becoming H.Q., Malaya Area. After 'confrontation,' 17th Gurkha Division returned to Malaya, and its new Headquarters became H.Q., 17th Division/Malaya District.

Gurkha Signals Association with H.Q. 17th Division — end of an era

In 1952, the Gurkha Signals Training and Holding Wing reorganised itself in Kuala Lumpur as 17th Divisional Signal Regiment. In 1953 'B' Troop moved to Seremban to take over responsibility for the headquarters static communications, whilst 'A' Troop provided the mobile communications. From 1954 to 1957, 17th Regiment and its three Brigade Signal Troops, 'Jig,' 'King' and 'Love,' provided all communications for 17th Gurkha Division during the Malayan Emergency. In 1957, 17th Regiment moved to Seremban.

On 28th February, 1970, 17th Division officially disbanded after 28½ years of service in the Far East. The official disbandment was marked by a beating of Retreat in Rasah Camp. The Pipes and Drums of Gurkha Signals joined with the Pipes and Drums of the Gurkha Engineers and the Royal Marine Band of 3 Commando Brigade, R.M. In addition, Gurkha Signals provided the ground keepers, flag orderlies and, inevitably, the P.A.

Our new headquarters is H.Q., Malaya Area, which will remain in Seremban until we move to Singapore in August this year.

C.R. Signals Staff say farewell to an old hand

At the same time as 17th Division disbanded C.R. Signals said a regretful farewell to **Mr. Vong Tham Thiew.**

Mr. Vong commenced his service with the Imperial Forces (to whom Malaysian Telecomms Department are still wont, even now, to refer) in April, 1946.

Due to a much publicised decline in the Imperial fortunes many long-serving soldiers and civilians are being declared redundant and **Mr. Vong** is among their number.

In September, 1949, **Mr. Vong** left Stats Branch and joined the C.S.O. Malaya Command as Telecommunications Clerk responsible for SWS rentals. He remained with the branch throughout its various changes of title until 1st March. He recalls many, some now quite senior, officers of the Corps and many clerks.

The sterling work carried out by **Mr. Vong** has twice been recognised by the presentation of Commander-in-Chief's Commendation in 1958 and in 1964.

In 1960 H.Q. O.C.L.F. moved from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban. Since that date **Mr. Vong** travelled daily to and from his home at the village of Batu Caves, leaving at 5 a.m. and returning at 7 p.m. The S.O. III, a notoriously early riser, was shocked into silence on learning of this at **Mr. Vong's** farewell drinks.

60 PAGES!

THIS IS THE BIGGEST WIRE EVER PUBLISHED

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

1970 Celebrations

THESE celebrations started on 10th April with a cocktail party in the Officers' Mess. The aim of this party was to express our appreciation to the 'workers of the world,' Grade 2 and 3 Staff Officers, M.P.B.W. and local civilians, who have given us so much help and support in the past. Surreptitiously, the opportunity was taken to indulge in a little advertising to boost the annual Regimental fun fair, to be held the next day.

This year's fair was designed to be the biggest yet, and preparations had started way back in February, under the expert hand of the fair manager, alias P.R.I., **Major Dick Turpin.** It was intended that the primary beneficiary of the fair would be the Locally-Enlisted Soldiers' Benevolent Fund, and in a year when redundancy is looming for so many of our local soldiers, no worthier cause could be envisaged. Clearly, something rather large and unusual was required to draw attention to our efforts—an elephant perhaps!

With no little ingenuity and persuasion in high places, a large Indian elephant was duly produced, ridden by that well-known mahout, **Staff Sergeant Phil Winton,** assisted by **Lance-Corporal Jean Helliwe'l** and **Private 'Sabu' Samson.** This proved to be a most effective idea and was an unusual diversion for the Saturday morning shoppers at Tanglin NAAFI.

PRELUDE TO THE FAIR
The Elephant, Staff-Sergeant Phil Winton, Lance-Corporal Jean Helliwell and Private "Sabu" Sampson

Passing through the usual pre-fun fair stages of wives sewing and cooking, boys building, decorating, buying and selling and the attendant chaos, all was ready in good time, and even the weather remained kind. The efforts of the fair manager, **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Pete Durrant, W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Chris Speight, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Tony Harris, Staff Sergeant Phil Winton,** the Wives Club en bloc, and very many other willing helpers, far too numerous to mention individually, resulted in a bumper fair clearly enjoyed by the largest crowd ever seen in the Dover Road Stadium. Their generosity in spending matched their enjoyment, as we can report a profit of some £1,100 for charity and the Locally Enlisted Personnel Benevolent Fund.

The fair was visited by the Army Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hunt** and the Chief of Staff, FARELF, **Major-General M. S. Hancock,** paying his first visit to a Royal Signals function, following his appointment as Colonel Commandant.

18th SIGNAL REGIMENT FUNFAIR
The crowd, Dover Road Stadium

Perhaps the pictures should tell the rest of the story, but let it be said that Corps celebrations have got off to a fine start in Singapore. Later in the year we have parties planned for everyone, with events culminating with the visit of **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** in September.

A final greeting from the heat of Singapore to all former members of 18th Signal Regiment, everywhere, in this auspicious year.

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

THIS month we report on a brand new Squadron with a brand new role; even greater successes in this year's A.R.A. non central competitions, a new officer for the Corps, and our own Anniversary Celebrations.

The birth of No. 4 (Harrier) Squadron

Easter is traditionally a time when things start to hatch, including on occasions Signal Squadrons. On 1st April, 4 (Harrier) Squadron came into being, having as its role the provision of ground communications for Harrier aircraft. We have been a considerable time in embryo, but even now after we have cracked out of our shell, our wings (in the shape of aircraft) will be some time in delivery. In the meantime men and equipment have been arriving, and with the consequent settling in, checking and training, we all expect to be rather busy.

At present we are occupying temporary offices immediately adjacent to a NAAFI beer store, and it is signal example of our devotion to duty that we are willing to vacate this promising location for one more effective operationally.

Major 'Dick' Sumner and **Second-Lieutenant Tom Moncur** have been busily touring the various headquarters and units with which we shall be involved in the coming months. This is an activity which is ever demanding of diplomacy, tact and good humour; to date we have been exceedingly fortunate in attaining a very happy and productive relationship with all concerned.

The outlook for the next few months looks good; it promises lots of hard work, lots of movement and, we hope, lots of fun —look to succeeding WIRE notes for a check on this prophecy!

A.R.A. Non-Central Results

The Regiment has won the King Edward VII Cup. It is believed to be the first time by any Royal Signals unit. We await the trophy to confirm the fact and have already been warned by the last holders to strengthen the Mess table!

We also retain the King George V Cup for other arms for the third year in succession and the Corps Shield for the fifth year in succession. Our 'B' team followed second in the Corps Shield competition.

The First Army Cup was our only 'failure' — out of a possible 288 we managed 287 but the S.E.M.E. R.E.M.E. team got a possible!

A New Officer for the Corps

This month our R.S.M., **W.O.I Norman Murray,** left us to join 24th Signal Regiment as an officer. He was suitably wined and dined (officially and unofficially) and presented with a sword by his colleagues, Army and R.A.F., of the Regiment and Laarbruch. We all wish him a long and happy career.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Officers' Mess ladies' night. On 24th April the Officers of the Regiment were hosts to the Commander-in-Chief, R.A.F. Germany, **Air Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A.,** and **Lady Foxley-Norris,** the Chief Signals Officer B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** Commanders of all airfields on which the Regiment has detachments and many Staff Officers and friends from far and wide.

The guest list was formidable—as the Commanding Officer said in his speech he must be the most commanded Commanding Officer in the Army with three different chains of command and four airfields involved! We were very glad to welcome two guests who came from England for the occasion. **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** late Commander 4 Group and now Commandant at Harrogate, and **Major Bill Oates,** now at Shrewsbury.

After dinner the Commander-in-Chief displayed his prowess as a conductor of the Corps Band who played during the evening and well into the next day for dancing.

TAKE OVER BID FOR DIRECTOR OF CORPS MUSIC?
Air-Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris conducts the Corps Band as they play the rousing Royal Air Force march past

The White Helmets visited the Regiment and gave two splendid displays, one to our German friends in nearby Weeze and the second on the airfield to a very large mixed audience.

The efforts and performances of both the Corps Band and the White Helmets were much appreciated and greatly enhanced our celebrations. Our thanks go to all those involved.

Sporting Outlook

We don't want readers to think that our only sporting effort is directed towards cross-country and shooting. In spite of the limitations imposed by our dispersion all over Germany, we have been doing very well at most of the winter sports.

The hockey team has had a good run in the Rhine Area league and with four games to play will certainly be in the first three. They only lost 1—0 with a sadly weakened team in the Army Cup to H.Q. B.A.O.R., who got through to the semi-finals. Our basketball teams have had a successful year both at Wildenrath and Laarbruch.

We seem to be particularly well endowed with soccer talent but dispersion has led to us running several good teams rather than one excellent one. However, the Regimental team, chosen from those based at Laarbruch, has still managed to obtain promotion to Division I of the Rhine Area League. 'H' Troop are to be complemented on winning the R.A.F. Bruggen station soccer league, a remarkable feat for a small group. With the move of R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron to Wildenrath, we look forward to winning some Regimental honours next year.

Another popular winter sport has been squash and the newly instituted Regimental Squash Cup was won by the Adjutant, **Captain Bob Siderfin,** after an exciting match with O.C. 1 Squadron, **Major Keith Powell.** Many of the Regiment have been ski-ing, taking advantage of both other formation schemes and our own January camp in the Herz Mountains.

The shooting team are already in heavy training and hope to have added to our very impressive collection of silver with some excellent shooting in bad conditions at Arsbeck. In spite of the departure of a number of last year's team, we are looking forward to another good Bisley.

We are beginning to look to the summer. Our athletics team is most promising and our tennis and cricket hopes are high. During the cricket season the C.O. is bringing out several teams including a number of County stars and we are also undertaking a couple of tours.

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

FOR a few short days towards the end of the month, Catterick sweltered under a cloudless sky, and our spirits were only slightly dampened by the long-range weather forecaster who predicted a colder and wetter-than-average month ahead. Why is it that when forecasting bad weather, they are invariably right, and yet fine weather seems beyond them! Be that as it may, Catterick is making a brave bid to overhaul Manchester in the wet weather stakes.

The Pennine walk

With the end of the winter season, adventure training returns to the Lake District, but before this happens **Signalman Sam Brooke** has provided an account of the winter training, the Pennine Expedition.

Our objective was to walk from Kirkby Stephen back to Catterick Camp in three days.

Day 1

08.45 hours.—Left for Kirkby Stephen by bus, and after about one-and-three-quarter hours' travelling we reached our destination and then split into two parties. 10.30 hours.—We started our hike. The first things that met us were two big hills that towered over us; after about 15 minutes we conquered these and plodded merrily on. Then we started on the next stage of the hike to High Seat. 11.07 hours.—We reached High Seat; we had a short break and started off for our next objective which was Hugh Seat; the weather at this time was quite mild with a moderate wind. We missed Hugh Seat by about 200 yards; we could not see the point because by this time the mist was upon us. 11.50 hours.—We reached Great Shunner Fell; here we had a 20-minute break, had a brew and something to eat, then **Sergeant Smith** told us we were only a few miles from our camping area, which was Butter Tubs. 16.00 hours.—We reached Butter Tubs, then set up camp, cooked our tea, by which time we were all ready for a well-earned rest . . . well, at least we thought we had earned it! And so ended the first day's hike.

Day 2

08.00 hours.—The day started with **Sergeant Smith** hammering on our tent telling us to get up. After dragging ourselves out of our sleeping bags, we made breakfast, broke camp and started the second day's hike. 10.10 hours.—We started off to our next check point, which was a beacon. By this time we were already 40 minutes behind schedule—we should have left at 09.30 hours—at this **Sergeant Smith** was not very pleased.

11.50 hours.—We arrived at the Beacon, which was at a height of 1,900 feet. The weather was now quite bad and raining with a strong wind. This part of the journey took us over very marshy ground, bogs and hilly terrain. Then we set off for our next place of rest, which was a road by Oxnop

Scar. By now, one or two members of the party were beginning to feel the pace.

12.55 hours.—We reached Oxnop Scar, where everyone filled their canteens from a nearby stream. Everyone at this time was wet and cold, but the morale was still very high. 14.00 hours.—We had to stop at this time owing to two members of the party ignoring **Sergeant Smith's** advice and not having breakfast; they were staggering with exhaustion. We had to literally hand-feed these two men, they were that exhausted. 16.40 hours.—Made camp at Grinton, and now everyone was very tired and longing to get some sleep. After about two hours it belted down with rain.

Day 3

08.00.—The day started like the previous day, with **Sergeant Smith** calling us. 09.30 hours.—We broke camp—on time today—and set off on the last day's hike. 10.05 hours.—A Land Rover pulled up and **Sergeant Burt** jumped out and said two members of the party had to go back to Catterick Camp right away, so in they jumped, and we watched with envy as they rode away. We learned later that they had an interview with the P.S.O. 10.40 hours. We started on the A.6108 (Richmond Road), the last part of the journey being all by road. 11.00 hours.—We came off the Richmand Road and headed for Wathgill Camp. 12.15 hours.—We arrived at Wathgill Camp; here we had a 15-minute break for a brew and a bite to eat.

12.30 hours.—Started off on the final stage of the hike. Catterick Camp was only six miles away. **Sergeant Smith** had to tell the men at the front to slow down, they were so eager to reach home. 13.30 hours.—We stopped at Gandale Camp, waited for the tail-enders to catch up, then we all set off together for the last mile. 14.45 hours.—We reached home; we never thought we would be so glad to see 24th Signal Regiment. Everyone who started the hike finished it; we all enjoyed it and felt we had achieved something. Apart from sore feet, we do not feel any the worse for it; in fact we felt better.

In brief

Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E., left us during the month; we wish both he and his wife, Margot, the very best of luck in the future, and welcome back to the Regiment **Colonel W. A. Sykes** and his wife, **Biddy.**

Exercise 'Steadfast' took place on 17th, 18th, 19th April. Staged by Schemes Troop and Military Training Wing, largely for industry, teams raced around a 50-mile circuit, surmounting obstacles and hazards on the way—a huge success.

* * *

Quote of the month from 2 Squadron (talking about morse training): "Fourteen out of fifteen failed; we are not entirely satisfied that this is the complete answer."

Sergeants' Mess opening ball

The renovation of the Mess was at last completed, superbly wallpapered, complimented by old gold velvet drapes. Subdued lighting and candlelit floral decorations inveigled a romantic setting. Assembled guests, members and ladies awaited the opening notes of the Band of the 3rd Carabiniers. The M.C. was **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Fred Toole,** who soon had the floor crowded.

The President, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Brian Turner,** gave a speech and made presentations, on behalf of all members to **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Andy Souter** and **Sergeant Danny Irvine** for transforming the entrance and corridor from looking like a suburban railway station to an entrance of which any Officers' Mess could be proud. **Y. of S. Souter** received an automatic watch and **Sergeant Irvine** a collapsible tea trolley and a Remington shaver; our thanks to them both for their hard work and many hours of their own time spent on the task. To **W.O.II (C. of W.) Jeff Bamford** and **Staff Sergeant (C. of W.) George Cowe,** both R.E., for work done, not to be disclosed or they might find themselves in trouble, we presented an inscribed cigarette box each. To **Seregant John Martin,** for his part in the transformation, we presented a four-stemmed candelabra.

Alas, all good things come to an end, and thoughts of Church Parade the next day discouraged many members from lingering once 3 a.m. had struck.

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28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

History

AS a direct result of the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation forces in Germany in 1952, it became necessary to provide an additional Signal Regiment for static communications to reinforce the Headquarters Northern Army Group Signal Regiment, No. 2 Line of Communication Signal Regiment. This second Regiment became known as No. 4 Line of Communication Signal Regiment.

Various reorganisations resulted in a reshuffle of Squadrons and two Army Group Signal Regiments were formed. No. 19 Army Group Signal Regiment, designated 28th Signal Regiment, on 1st September, 1959, remains as the only British Major unit assigned in direct support of N.A.T.O. This was redesignated 28th (British) Signal Regiment (Northern Army Group) on 14th August, 1968.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS

Parade for the Chief of Staff, Northern Army Group

On Monday, 20th April, the Regiment paraded formally. The occasion was the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to three senior members of the Regiment, **Staff Sergeant Frank Cokayne, Staff Sergeant Bernie Shaw** and **Sergeant 'Smudge' Smith.** The Chief of Staff, Northern Army Group, **Major-General H. H. Von Hinckeldey** of the German Army came to make the presentation. He inspected the parade and expressed pleasure at the presence of the Corps Band on the parade. As always the bearing of the Regiment was notably better than ever when marching to the stirring music of the Corps Band.

Visit by the Commander, Northern Army Group

On Thursday, 23rd April, the Regiment was honoured by a visit from the Commander Northern Army Group, **General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.** After a briefing in the Training Wing he was interested to see the operational vehicles of the Regiment laid out on the square, passing drill traffic. He also met the Regiment team which won the B.A.O.R. Unit Team Cookery Competition. We have subsequently heard that he was impressed by what he saw and our problems were well appreciated.

The Army Unit Team Cookery Competition

MENU

MINESTRONE

FILLET OF SOLE CAPRICE

BRAISED STEAK GARNI
FONDANT POTATOES
CAULIFLOWER POLONAISE

SPRINGTIME GATEAU

SCONES

The Regimental team, **Captain Tony Hope** (the team leader), **W.O.II (S.Q.M.S.) Joe Oytaben, Lance-Corporal 'Danny' Daniels** and **Private 'Jacko' Jackson,** all A.C.C., won the Army Unit Team Cookery Competition for the second consecutive year at Aldershot on 28th and 29th April. The competition was fierce. The other six finalists came from the U.K. and the Gulf.

The trophy was presented to the team by **Lady Baker,** wife of **General Sir Geoffrey Baker, G.C.B., C.M.G., M.C., A.D.C.,** the Chief of the General Staff.

DEAD-LINE DATE FOR 'WIRE' ARTICLES

12th! 12th! 12th!

20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. & Signal Sqn., B.F.P.O. 41

Past History

AT the request of the Editor we introduce this article with a very short and potted recent history of the Squadron. 20th Armoured Brigade was formed on disbandment of 6th Armoured Division in 1958. 4 Squadron of 6th Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment moved from Bunde to Detmold where it was renamed 20th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron. The Squadron was designated 200 Signal Squadron in 1959 and hence is the senior independent Squadron. With the coming of integration in 1964 the Squadron received its present title.

Snow, and even a tea dance

There was more than enough snow in the Sauerland to keep the M.T.O., **Captain C. M. C. Colvin Smith,** R.C.T., happy. The Squadron rented a hut near the resort of Winterburg. We are told that the training programme of Exercise 'Snow Queen' was not necessarily geared to include the 4 p.m. tea dance. Maybe it is relevant to this time of confidential reports to quote that old expression, 'this officer dances in the afternoon.'

Corps Band visits

On 6th April the Squadron received a visit from the Corps Band with the Director of Music, **Captain K. R. R. Boulding.** The weather once again threatened to spoil the proposed ceremony of playing Retreat in the town of Detmold. However, in the event the rain just about held off. The Band gave an excellent display of marching and counter marching on ground that the Director of Music thought was an obstacle course! The Burgermeister and Town Clerk attended the ceremony. The Band was then entertained in the Squadron Club and Sergeants' Mess. It was unfortunate that the Band had to leave early on in the proceedings in order to travel to Berlin the next day. However, despite the Director of Music's renowned insistence on punctuality the Band squeezed an extra half-hour in the Club/Mess (Second-in-Command to blame!).

Cadets looked after

During April the Squadron played host to a party of Wiltshire Army Cadets. A varied training programme had been laid on by various departments of the Squadron. **Sergeant Palmer** did his best to spread the boys out all over North Rhine Westphalia with a map-reading exercise. 'B' Troop introduced the boys to line laying in the snow, which proved a popular pastime. **Y. of S. Chapman** and **Y. of S. Noon** arranged some manpack radio training and infantry tactics. This proved even more popular and all the cadets voted to return next year and do more minor tactics including night exercises. The highlight of the visit was the trip in the helicopters of 661 Aviation Squadron. The success of the visit, however, was due to the hard work put in by the conducting N.C.O.s, **Sergeant C. H. Story** and **Lance-Corporal K. E. Sheppard,** and **Driver J. Frost,** R.C.T., the minibus driver. Thanks must also go to **Corporal J. Stephenson,** R.E.M.E., who looked after the boys like a father in the Squadron Club—no easy task.

A popular award of the B.E.M.

We are pleased to announce the award of the B.E.M. to our M.S.O. **Foreman Radovanovic.** For those readers who are not familiar with the Mixed Service Organisation (M.S.O.) a word or two of explanation may not be amiss. The M.S.O. was formed after the war to provide a source of labour and in so doing provide work for some of the many 'displaced persons' then in Germany. **Milan Radovanovic** joined the M.S.O. in 1946. He joined 20th Armoured Brigade in 1960 with the rank of Foreman. He is a well-known character in the Squadron with many anecdotes about past members of the Brigade staff and Squadron. He is the continuity man in the Squadron recce party and as such is a first-rate 'con' man in German villages. We are very pleased that his loyal service has been recognised by this award.

LOYAL SERVICE REWARDED
Foreman Radovanovic receives the B.E.M.

Coming and going

Due to the withdrawal of the rear link troops from both the R.A.C. and Infantry Regiments in the Brigade, there have been a great many comings and goings, too many to mention all. However, we have said farewell to our two rebro crew commanders, **Lance-Corporals Peart** and **Mattison,** to 21st Signal Regiment and 244 Signal Squadron respectively. We wish them luck.

O.C. 'B' Troop, in the form of **Lieutenant Knock,** leaves this month only to return to Hobart Barracks, Detmold, in August to be A/R.S.O. of the Blues and Royals. It is rumoured that he attends an equestrian course after the R.A.C. R.S.O. course at Bovington. We welcome **Second-Lieutenant Lloyd-Jones** in his place. **Captain Jack Hayward,** R.T.R., retires this month after 31 years' service. He is no stranger to 20th Armoured Brigade having been Second-in-Command H.Q. Company before integration. He then rejoined the integrated Squadron as Admin. Officer in 1966. He retires to a pleasant office overlooking the Thames and Buckingham Palace. We shall all miss his stories of his exploits in 1945 with his tank. He claims to have destroyed the top of the Sennelager windmill with one shot! We wish him a happy retirement and welcome **Captain B. D. Norman,** 9th/12th Lancers, in his place.

In this Anniversary Year the Squadron looks ahead to the usual full programme of events, including adventure training in Bavaria, border patrols and exercises.

6 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron, (206) Barnard Castle

Nomadic existence ended

AS it is some time since 6th Brigade Signal Squadron featured in THE WIRE it might be as well to remind readers of our existence. Although we are based in Barnard Castle in Co. Durham, we are under command of 1 (BR) Corps and since returning to U.K. in 1968 have made twice-yearly pilgrimages to Germany for training. No less than three months in the year were spent in B.A.O.R. and with us we took all of our vehicles including AFVs 432 and 439, 4-tonners and binners. To the infinite relief of the Movements Organisation, our nomadic existence is to cease at the end of this year when we are scheduled to return to Germany to stay.

February saw the departure of **Major and Mrs. David Milton** to the R.M.A.S. and the arrival of **Major and Mrs. Tom Wheawell.** No sooner had he taken over command than he was faced with the unit's F.F.R. inspection. To this day he still mutters, "It was a fiddle," whenever the subject is mentioned.

A good sports record

Our role has made it difficult to participate fully in normal inter unit sports but with a lot of hard work the Squadron have achieved a great deal. The soccer team finished second in the Northumbrian District Junior League only one point behind the leaders. They must surely have won had they been able to play two outstanding matches. Results for the season were: Played 14, lost 2, drawn 1, won 11. **Signalman David Taylor** was on the target to score a lot of goals and the team captain, **Corporal Guy Terras,** had to miss some of the matches as he was the regular full-back for the Brigade rugby team. Perhaps the oddest stoppage of play during the season was in a match versus 17 Squadron, R.C.T., when a free-fall parachutist landed in the middle of the pitch!

The hockey team have not lagged behind. Their results were: Played 16, lost 4, drawn 2, won 10. No less than six of these matches were against full major unit teams. In addition they reached the final of the 6th Brigade six-a-side (the only team in 6th Brigade to do so). Mainstays of the team were **Captain Stephen Carr-Smith, Corporal Keith O'Hara** and **Signalman Donald Boscoe.**

U.K. exercises impose difficulties

But life is not all sport and we have had some exercises in U.K. as well. There are, however, considerable difficulties and disadvantages in exercising on the very limited training area in and around Barnard Castle and Catterick. After a few days on these areas drivers became over-familiar with the routes and the ranges of the C42 radio can almost be plotted on a map. Unless we are within C50 range of Catterick we cannot fully work our Bruin link as we have to rely on 8th Signal Regiment for the use of their terminal facilities.

The most recent Exercise 'Happy Talk,' 5th-8th May, aimed at overcoming the boredom of continual training on Feldom Training Area, and we travelled over a large part of N.E. England almost to the Scottish border. Even so we were forced to use disused Army camps and R.A.F. stations and only the final location in a wooded area on private land was at all realistic of Germany. Then we heard the cuckoo which adequately summarises our feelings on Brigade training in U.K.

8th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron, Londonderry

On a personal note

THE Squadron is now quite firmly settled down in H.M.S. *Sea Eagle*, Londonderry, and already we are saying farewell to members who were posted on a six-month emergency tour. The first to leave us was **Staff Sergeant Colin Cox,** R.A.P.C., who seemingly, cannot get enough of the Corps, has gone to 11th Signal Regiment (our loss, your gain, 11th!). His replacement, **Sergeant Alan Dainty,** has taken over; he came to us from R.P.O., Worthy Down. **Staff Sergeant Ken Morgan** has also left us; he has gone to 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. His replacement, **Staff Sergeant Les Dickey,** from J.T.R., Rhyl, has just arrived and is making strange noises around the M.T. Also to leave us shortly are: **Corporal 'Jock' Callaghan,** to 39 Brigade; **Corporal Barry** ('man of the mountains') **Dickson** to 7th Signal Regiment; **Corporal 'Taff' John** to 2nd Division; **Lance-Corporal Sid Barnett** to 244 Signal Squadron; **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' Nesbitt** to 30th Signal Regiment; **Signalman Alfie Cottle** to 244 Signal Squadron and **Signalman Rob Parkin** to 30th Signal Regiment. We wish them all the best of luck and thanks for a job well done.

Congratulations are in order for our Foreman of Signals, **John Callow,** on his promotion to W.O.II, and if that wasn't good enough news, he was told his posting is now to Malta! Congratulations also to **Lance-Corporal Cliff Dalton-Brockwell** on his marriage to **Margaret Smith,** from Chester.

Life in the Troops has settled down to the operational requirement of Northern Ireland, and most members have had their first leave. The comcen, under **Y. of S. John Beasley,** are due for a move into the naval communications building, when it is vacated in the near future; this move of the Navy will, we hope, see all of us into fresh accommodation in *Sea Eagle*.

Sport gets under way

Although our rugby got off to a shaky start, with a sound thrashing by the 17th/21st Lancers at Omagh, more games and better results have been promised. **Staff Sergeant Tony Williams** has got football started, with the Squadron entered in a summer league. He has also just run the inter-Troop five-a-side knockout competition, with 'Alpha' Troop polishing off the Squadron and a winners' crate of beer! 'Bravo' Troop won the losers' competition, beating 'Alpha' Troop. **Sergeant Steve Alcock** has promised great things for the cricket season, but his application to take a team to the West Indies was turned down flat (it's rumoured they want him as a regular WIRE notes writer).

The Rebroadcast Sites

As we mentioned before, the Squadron inherited two RRB sites, which were sited on very high, windy and bare hills, from 24 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. We continued to use them until 29th March, on which day they were withdrawn. Some of the more 'hairy' members of the Squadron, especially **Corporal Barry Dickson,** regretted their demise, but it was felt that **Lieutenant Andrew Whiddett,** as O.C. 'Alpha' Troop was lonely, with his men permanently deployed in the wilds. At least after 29th March he had less excuse for disappearing into the blue. To perpetuate the memory of those sites, **Corporal Pete Emmerson** wrote the following, based on his 'experiences.'

First and last RRB 'Wire' Notes

By Corporal Pete Emmerson

As Crew Commander Relief, Bebro, and having worked at both stations, I was nominated by a chuckling O.C. 'Alpha' Troop to 'do the Rebro notes.'

On 28th January we 'took over' two Rebro sites from 24 Brigade. Wishing us luck and laughing mysteriously amongst themselves, they disappeared on their way back to Plymouth.

We took up our stand, with **Corporal Barry Dickson** at Rebro 2 and **Corporal 'Taff' John** at Rebro 1.

The relief system was arranged so that a crew would complete ten days at a site and have five days 'rest' in camp. The relief crew would work five days at Rebro 1 and five at Rebro 2, then having five in camp. Surprisingly, the system worked.

Taking over from **Corporal Dickson,** the relief crew discovered the full meaning of the words 'send a carrier.' The guard net hummed with such expressions as "there's a carrier going through me now," and replies of "I ain't getting nuffin at this end."

After a few days I became rather suspicious as to why clean and shining volunteers for the water collection badgered me every day, until I discovered that the farmhouse where we obtained our water, sported an 'of-age' daughter.

After our five-day stint, we flew by chopper to Rebro 1, and **Corporal 'Taff' John** and his crew left us to our devices 1,200 feet up and 2ft. deep in snow. We were then formally introduced to the 'Gremlin' station or, as the sign above the door said 'Rebro 1 is wonderful.'

The gale-force winds that we timed at 17.00 and 21.00 daily, usually brought the blizzard somewhere in between. **Signalman Ray Hatton's** best memory of Rebro 1 seems to be of me opening the door of the bed waggon and being blown away from half-way up the stairs. We didn't really believe in 'gremlins' until **Lance-Corporal Eddie MacAffer** and **Signalman 'Flash' Bryan,** having being informed that the outstations couldn't get through, changed every item of kit from the tip of the antenna to the bottom of the ground spike, to find they still had the same fault. O.C. 'Alpha,' being radio officer that night, decided to visit and see if he could sort something out. Twenty minutes after he had begun his journey, communications were back 'fives' both ways. Have you ever tried telling someone who, for 45 minutes has battled his way through snow-drifts, that he has had a wasted journey?

Headed by **Lance-Corporal Brian** ('Strange') **Street,** the Rebro crews began growing 'taches,' after which the R.S.M., back in camp, became very quick at recognising us as Rebro crews.

My most vivid memory of Rebro is the day one of the 6KVA generators broke down; O.C. 'Alpha,' ably assisted by his driver-operator, **Lance-Corporal Sid Barnett,** set out to deliver a fresh one to our door. An hour later they arrived minus the new 6KVA. The road was like a sheet of ice and the Rover couldn't pull it up. We set off to supply a bit of manpower, but to no avail. Someone made the bright suggestion that we ran the generator back down to the bottom of the hill and try a run with two Rovers in series. Backing was out of the question, so **Mr. Whiddett, Lance-Corporal Barnett, Lance-Corporal Baker, Signalman Hatton** and myself set out to push the beast about about 500 yards down the hill. It resulted in five bodies hanging on to a bucking, runaway, barely controllable 6KVA. Needless to say, we never did manage to get it up the hill.

Life has progressed happily, with **Signalman Alf Cottle** and **Signalman Robbie Parkin** swapping for control life with **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Brennan** and **Signalman 'Spin' Dinnage. Lance-Corporal Venn** kept us well informed as to his (Chelsea) football team. **Signalman 'Jock' Sweeney** and **Signalman 'Legs' Stenner** managed to keep smiling throughout.

But, alas, all has come to an end and the Rebros are down. **Staff Sergeant Tony Williams** complains about not having his run three times a week to re-supply us. Rebro 1 was folded up by **Corporal Ron Griffiths,** who decided to do a stint, and I closed down Rebro 2, ending an interesting and worthwhile job of work.

Miscellaneous Jottings

Signalman Jim Gallagher is now spending most of his time photographing the 'sights' of our Brigade area for the Brigade Intelligence Branch. During his trips into the unknown he was ably escorted by his faithful bodyguard, **Signalman Robin Parkin.** They wrote an account for the WIRE of their exploits, but I am afraid it is for 'our eyes only.' Incidentally, **Gallagher** also takes the photographs which we include with our notes, and he should be congratulated on their quality.

We now have a Pye mobile relay for Ulsternet mounted in a BRUIN cabin on a four-ton flathead GS vehicle. This we have deployed 'in anger' with no mean success. The crews soon learnt, or re-learnt, the vagaries of the Clarke mast. Having heard of the escapades of the other Brigade, we have not been under any low bridges lately.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief visited us on 7th March. He saw all Troops and departments, and we managed to keep our record of never failing to hold a V.I.P.'s interest too long. We never did find out whether **General Pentreath** got lunch at Lisburn. He called in on our mobile relay, which had been deployed for some ten days on an operation, on his way back to Lisburn.

VISIT BY S.O.-in-C.
The General makes a point to the O.C., Major M. H. Colman R.S.M. Meyer in background. Lance-Corporal Eddie MacAffer listens with interest

This is Ron Cathcart. 33. Married with five children and, until recently, a telecommunications instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Feeling the need for the more settled domestic life that 'civvy street' offered, Ron left the RCS after many enjoyable years and, eight months ago joined Michelin Tyre Company on an 'open' basis, after passing through the Company's selection procedure; Ron's qualities were assessed and he was helped to choose a suitable career. He is at present undergoing training for a post as a production supervisor at the Stoke factory.

This is what Ron Cathcart says about his new career.

"The first thing that struck me about Michelin was the friendly atmosphere, and a real team spirit which I did not expect to find in industry. Responsibility is given as soon as you are ready for it and, although friendly advice is always available, you are given a job and left to get on with it.

I found the transition to civvy life helped greatly by the very thorough training programme which allows you to set your own pace, within reason.

Fringe benefits such as the canteen services and the sports and social amenities are of a high standard and Michelin adopts an understanding attitude to any personal difficulties – as I found to my advantage.

The opportunities for promotion are good and I see my career with Michelin as an exciting challenge."

Ron Cathcart is doing well and has found himself a career at Michelin and not just a job.

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START A NEW CAREER AT MICHELIN

(This Army man did)

MICHELIN IS WHERE THE CAREER JOBS ARE

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

A look to the future

AS the Corps looks back over the last fifty years the Squadron reports on two clubs in the Unit that each have that 'something extra to offer.' We hope the future will see both clubs firmly established in the Garrison.

The Green Scarf Club—something really out of the ordinary

It is too easy in the U.K. to sit at home and be entertained by T.V. It is so easy in B.A.O.R. to sit at a bar and be entertained by drink. In the smaller units there can often be a lack of entertainment through finance and facilities.

Here in Kingsley Barracks the Squadron have an ideal building for a club and with a forward-looking committee have made the Green Scarf Club a well-known name in Minden as well as becoming known in B.A.O.R.

The committee, under **Corporal 'Scouse' Chapman,** is made up of the following enthusiastic members: **Lance-Corporal Colin Wing,** our part-time DJ and decor expert; **Corporal Dave Collins** and **'Scouse' Smythe,** keeping control of property; **Lance-Corporal Paul Cowles,** the technical adviser; **Corporal 'Tafiy' Crook,** the bar member; **Signalman Bob Oswald,** ready to make a profit from the raffle; and **Corporal 'Cass' Francis,** the publicity man. This team is now giving Minden first-class shows in the club each month and looking forward to doing the same in the future.

The club holds 200 and the committee expect to have a sell-out at least a week before the advertised show. It is always a disappointment to turn people away owing to the limited size but such is the demand for tickets.

The last show had the Monty Sunshine's Jazz Band out from U.K. for a second appearance. Once more they proved to be very popular and the evening was successful. The Forces Radio came to take recordings and interviews for their daily magazine programme 'Time Out,' which was broadcast the following Tuesday.

The committee are now preparing for the next show on 23rd May when Australia's top jazz band, 'The Yara Yara Jazz Band,' will be featured. Also playing will be the 'Atlantic Showband' together with a half-hour spot by the talented 'Celle Folk Group.' This makes a total of 24 people appearing at the club on one night, so it should be quite an evening

It is hard work for the committee but they all enjoy knowing their efforts are appreciated and enjoyed by those in the Garrison.

We all hope the future will see the club even more successful.

The start of the Kingsley Motor Sports Club

By Corporal G. Hughes

It was Easter weekend when it all began.

Corporal 'Brad' Bradley gazed out over his rum and coke and stared at a photo I had taken when competing in the South Malaysian Rally a couple of years ago. The conversation turned to motor sport and motor clubs in general. I fell for his odd remarks about "it must surely be fun" and he would like to have a go. The next I knew, a writing pad appeared and a slalom sprint, cunningly disguised under the title of 'driving test,' appeared to have been 'organised.'

Two days later, with bated breath, I approached the Squadron Commander, **Major G. Corden,** for permission to run the event the following Sunday. Permission granted I approached **W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. E. W. Cave** for permission to use his square for the event; this was also granted.

Regulations were hastily made and quickly put out with Daily Routine Orders (it has its uses working in the Orderly Room!).

With the backing of **Major (Q.M.) S. McIvor,** R.I.R., the event was surely going to run smoothly, plus lots of 'bits and pieces' from the sports store to make up the course. Marshals were now required and **Lance-Corporal Gary Coude** rallied round and led a 'fearsome bunch' onto the square on 'Der Tag.'

Captain C. A. Brown, our versatile Second-in-Command and chairman of the notorious Green Scarf Club, threw open his club doors, stocked his bar, ready for the competitors and spectators, in anticipation of a profit on the hot, sunny afternoon.

A small field of eight drivers arrived to try their skill, with over 100 from the Squadron watching the would-be Paddy Hopkirks hurl their cars about in every conceivable direction on the square.

The eight stalwarts wandered around the first course that was laid out and then returned to the start line and watched, vacantly, whilst I drove out and showed them what they were supposed to do, only I did it slowly and untimed.

Each competitor had two attempts at each course and their timings were added, plus penalty points for knocking marker posts over. The competitor with the least number of penalty points was the winner.

Consistency was the order of the day. Competitors either drove faultlessly, like **Sergeant Alex Hayton,** R.M.P., or went the wrong way, like **Corporal 'Cas' Francis,** much to the delight of the knowledgeable spectators.

Whilst my wife and I worked feverishly over the results, computing the points for two attempts at four different tests, competitors collapsed around the bar, complaining of nervous exhaustion and what they'd like to do with me for having 'conned' them into participating.

With good-humoured cat-calls and jeers from the spectators I announced the winners. **Corporal Bradley, Corporal 'Mac' McEvoy** (20 Corps Electronic Workshops, R.E.M.E.) and **Sergeant Hayton** had won their respective classes.

Mrs. Ruth Young, wife of **Lance-Corporal Barry Young** of 'Bravo' Troop fame, proved that women can drive as well as, if not better than, some men. Watch out Blandford!

Someone placed a whisky into my hand when **Major McIvor** gaily announced that I would organise a rally for the following Sunday. Six days! I needed that tot.

The Kingsley Motor Sports Club had been formed and a start made to introduce newcomers to the sport. We all think it will progress well and be of benefit to the Garrison in the future.

12 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Sqn. (212) B.F.P.O. 36

Arrivals and departures

WE welcome this month **Second-Lieutenant Tony Sugden** and **Second-Lieutenant Robin Hill,** who are both going to command Radio Troops, and say goodbye to **Lieutenant Ian Pattison,** who leaves us for 3rd Division Signal Regiment.

We also welcome **Signalman Young,** from 225 Signal Squadron (we hear he is visiting you for his 21st birthday); **Signalman Forder,** from Bulford (he will pass his driving test yet) and **Signalman Engering,** from 24th Regiment. We say farewell to **Corporal Marshall** who is off to the Trucial Oman Scouts; **Corporal Orr** who is off to Tangmere, and **Lance-Corporal Edwards** who goes to 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment.

Volkslaufen

Members of the Squadron have now entered three Volkslaufen, which took place in Dortmund, Hagen and Verden. The main events have been a 10 km. run in the morning, followed by a 10 km. unformed march in the afternoon. **Lance-Corporal Sykes, Lance-Corporal Burnett** and **Lance-Corporal Olsen** gained gold medals in the marching event; **Signalman Thompson** achieved his gold medal in the running event; **Signalman Kemp** and **Signalman Brady** made girl friends? A gold medal is given to the first ten per cent of the competitors past the finishing line. Approximately forty of the Squadron have qualified for the medal, which is awarded for completing the course within the time limit.

Royal Signals Display Team

We are grateful to the Royal Signals Display Team for giving us a superb performance in April. This was attended by four of our local schools and the German orphanage which

the Squadron has adopted. The Squadron had a particular interest in the White Helmets as **Corporal Biddle,** one of the team, used to be one of us.

Anglo-German football match

Last week the Squadron's Anglo-German Club played a football match against the German Railways. The event culminated in a presentation to **Lance-Corporal Stevenson,** the team captain of a bunch of begonias. He was also presented with an excellent scroll. We won the match with the comfortable score of 4—1, and the event was celebrated after the match with many Bier Britischer in the Corporals' Mess.

Wedding

All the officers of the Squadron provided a guard of honour for the marriage of **Lieutenant Ian Pattison** to **Brigitte Manning** at a local German church, during April.

Wedding of Lieutenant Ian Pattison and Miss Brigitte Manning

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Aldershot

THE history of airborne signalling is only 30 years old and yet it is as eventful as any in the Corps. There has always been that special spirit of the volunteer amongst all the members of the Corps who have endured the rigours of 'P' Company and won their red beret. It is this special camaraderie which ensures that the Parachute Signal Squadron is regarded as 'home' to many signallers in many lands. **Captain 'Robbie' Laing** is but one illustration of our history.

'Mr. Airborne'

Captain 'Robbie' Laing has just left us for 18th Signal Regiment in Singapore and it is perhaps a good idea to look at **Robbie's** career as the longest serving member in the Squadron.

Robbie enlisted as a boy soldier into Royal Signals at Catterick Camp on 30th June, 1937, he was 14 years old. He transferred to man service on his 18th birthday and was posted to Plymouth Signal Squadron, where he volunteered for Airborne Signals. In 1942 he was selected as an Instructor at the N.C.O.'s Training Battalion, Harrogate, and in 1943 for Airborne Signals. He served with 6th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment at the Normandy landings in the Ardennes, the Rhine crossing and subsequently during the advance to link up with the Russians at the Baltic.

After the war, **Robbie** went to Palestine where he was mentioned in despatches and then returned to the U.K. for the formation of the Squadron under **Major G. Proudman** (now **Brigadier G. Proudman,** M.B.E., C.S.O. Strategic Command). 16th Parachute Brigade was formed from the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions. **Robbie** served with the Squadron in B.A.O.R. and Palestine until he donned his first blue beret in 1955 on

"MR. AIRBORNE"

Captain 'Robbie' Laing known as 'Mr. Airborne', the longest serving member of 216 Parachute Squadron, receives a statuette of a second world war Airborne soldier from Major Roy Williams, O.C., on his departure to 18th Signal Regiment. Members of the Squadron look on

posting to R.M.A., Sandhurst, as the S.S.M. of the Signal Wing. In 1957 he was posted as R.S.M. of the Officer Training Wing and then went to the School and afterwards B.A.O.R. He was commissioned in 1962 as Q.M. of 49th Yorkshire Signal Regiment, T.A., and returned to the Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron in 1965 as Adjutant.

After his last road run with the Squadron, **Robbie** was presented with a statuette of a Second World War Airborne Soldier by our O.C., **Major Roy Williams,** on behalf of the whole Squadron.

We are all sorry to see **Robbie** go as he seems an almost inseparable part of the Squadron, but we are pleased to welcome as his replacement **Captain 'Clem' Palmer** from 1 Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment, who was a Sergeant in the Squadron when **Robbie** was the Sergeant-Major. Maybe the next Mr. Airborne, who knows?

Who called it Adventure Training?

It certainly seemed more like a normal day's work than an adventure training spree when we staggered onto the Argosy aircraft at Odiham with our home for the next two weeks in our parachuting containers.

After some spectacular low flying through the Cairngorms, we levelled out for a 'lob' onto Lairg DZ. After four hours in an Argosy the silence of a North Scottish moor seemed almost perfect. When we hit the deck, we found our hosts for the next 10 days waiting for us. They were **Captain John Ridgway, M.B.E.,** Atlantic rower and late of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and the S.A.S., and **Captain Rod Liddon,** late of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and the S.A.S.

John and **Rod** run an Adventure Training Centre at Ardmore, a few miles south of Cape Wrath, and this was going to be our base for the rest of the exercise. We split into four patrols, led by **Corporals Ray Marshall, 'Smudge' Smith, 'Geordie' Griffiths** and **Bob Howell,** and spent the next three days marching through the mountains to Ardmore.

At Ardmore we spent our time canoeing, climbing, orienteering and most evenings at the Ricchonish Hotel. Towards the end of our stay we had the use of a Scout helicopter from the Brigade Flight for a survival exercise run by **John** and **Rod** and this left the 'chiefies,' **Captain Alistair Hood, Lieutenant John Griffin** and **Staff Sergeant Gordon Haughie,** some time to sit back and watch the fun.

Since the weather was so good and the surviving made easier, we increased the distance to be covered to make things more difficult. I don't know if you have ever climbed a hill and started wondering when the false summits are going to end and you will finally reach the top, but this is how the lads must have felt. We kept adding leg after leg. Finally, the patrols were briefed in a Crofter's cottage on a leg of ridiculous length, and a tape recorder was hidden under the table to get the reactions of the soldiers. The patrols set off to be met by the 4-tonner just around the corner. The tape was played back

at the debrief, much to the amusement of all concerned. The Patrol Leaders for this exercise were **Lance-Corporal Pete Martin, Signalmen Al Jeannette, Dave King** and **'Jinx' Jenkins** and they turned in some excellent performances.

After going to the local Highland dance and having an excellent barbeque prepared by **Corporal Mitchell,** we travelled to Kinloss and boarded a Hercules aircraft for a successful descent back onto Hankley Common DZ.

Unit Operational Inspection

As well as having our own inspection, it fell to us to provide communications for all the other Brigade Unit Inspections. When we came to have our own inspection we were already well practiced. The Brigade Commander inspected the Squadron on 10th March for a quick move on airlanded scales, after a fitness for role parachute inspection. After an attack by the enemy at 05.00 hours, the Squadron returned to barracks for an N.B.C. turnout followed by a full ceremonial parade.

The Commander commented to all that he considered 216, H.Q. Company and the staff had reached a standard of efficiency in their communications and military activities during 1969 which had never been equalled in the past 10-18 years.

Northern Ireland

The Squadron provided detachments for 1 and 2 Para in the Shankhill Road area of Belfast. The quick move of 1 Para. last September took five detachments for the first few days in order to bolster the number of infanteers available in the Rifle Companies. These signallers were attached to the Companies for an infiltration exercise prior to the quick move.

Later we changed to 1 Detachment actually providing communications for 1 Para R.H.Q. One particular detachment, **Corporal 'Dick' Hamilton, Signalman John Tovey** and **Signalman 'Al' Jeannette** tell us they had an excellent time, managing to get some parachuting in and spending their evenings in the 'Paradise Club,' the Battalion Discotheque. **Corporal Hamilton** commented, "We enjoyed a unique experience and found working with the 1st Battalion very pleasant indeed."

SPORT

The Squadron has had an excellent winter sporting season and the trophy cabinet is now packed to capacity. The following Minor Unit competitions are the trophies we won this season:

Cross-country

Winners, South East District, 16 Para. Brigade; runners-up, Army, Southern Command, 3rd Division. The team captain, **Corporal 'Dougie' Baikie,** has run for the Army.

Orienteers

Winners, 3rd Division, 16 Para. Brigade.

Soccer

Winners 3rd Div. (South East District), The Morrison Cup (Royal Signals U.K. Corps Cup), and 16 Para Bde. Cup. At present we are top of Division I, Aldershot District League. **Signalman Duffy** and **Lance-Corporal Campbell** have played for the Corps.

Judo/unarmed combat

Our expert, **Corporal Hogg,** has represented the Army at Judo and is now training the Squadron Unarmed Combat team for a display before **H.R.H. Princess Anne** at the School in June.

Boxing

16 Para. Brigade Boxing Championships, 1970. The following won their belts: Featherweight, **Lance-Corporal Wells;** welterweight, **Corporal Coffey;** light-middleweight, **Corporal Marshall;** middleweight, **Signalman Hardman.** The following reached the finals: **Corporal Baikie, Lance-Corporal Ferguson, Signalman Shaw.**

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OFFICERS AND SENIOR NC.O.'s, 222 SQUADRON

Back row, left to right: Sergeant McAlpine, Sergeant Crumbie, Sergeant Neillings, Sergeant Shergold, Sergeant Bannister
Centre row, left to right: Staff-Sergeant Charlton, Sergeant Thornborough, Sergeant Russell, Sergeant Foulger, Staff-Sergeant Pyke, Sergeant Threlfall-Searson, Sergeant Jennings, Sergeant Carre, Staff-Sergeant Chambers
Front row, left to right: W.O.II. Newson, Second-Lieutenant Baxter, Captain Hampson, Major Smith, Captain Steane, W.O.II. Hall, W.O.II McGregor

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah)

B.F.P.O. 64

O.C. ... Major F. Smith
S.S.M. ... W.O.II R. A. McGregor

THE Squadron is based at Sharjah, in the Trucial Oman States, where it was formed in 1967, after the withdrawal of British Troops from Aden.

Background

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the Gulf, a few background notes may help. The Trucial States each have rapidly-developing communities of their own, and there are now some good roads over what was, until five years ago, empty desert. Inland, there are few roads, and the going is rough, hot and dusty. Temperatures can go up to 135°F. in the wadis and mountains, and long journeys up-country are often necessary. These conditions are very demanding of men, vehicles and equipment, and call for a high degree of co-operation with other Services, in particular the R.A.F., on whom we rely for re-supply, medical evacuation and access to difficult areas. The local Arab tribesmen are, for the most part, friendly, but occasionally they fall out amongst themselves, and it is quite common, for troops camping at night, to hear the sound of distant shooting. All vehicles are fitted with special tyres and wheels to cross the soft sand and rugged mountain passes. Apart from this, equipment is quite standard.

The Squadron consists of a Headquarters Troop (**W.O.II Roy Newson**), Radio Troop (**Captain Mike McCann**) and Airfield Troop (**Captain Leslie Steane**).

Radio Troop

Radio Troop is fully mobile and has to cover a very large area of real estate. One of its vital functions is to provide a control station (D11) on the Desert Guard net. This net is manned round the clock and is used primarily for any emergency in the desert. Mobile detachments from Radio Troop operate in support of desert convoys, and expect to spend days on end motoring in appalling conditions in the fierce desert heat.

On a recent joint exercise, Radio Troop provided a VHF rebro site on a high feature in a barren mountain range. Flown in, and put down by helicopter, on an otherwise inaccessible spot, the detachment, commanded by **Signalman Brian McLean,** established itself and provided invaluable service. Operators from the Troop have recently served in Bahrain, on H.M.S. *Fearless*, and in various air support roles in the Gulf.

Airfield Troop

Airfield Troop is responsible for all line communications, exchanges and telephones in the Gulf, outside Bahrain, and is the oldest part of the Squadron. It is appropriate that the Troop Commander, **Captain Leslie Steane,** is also a qualified Forward Air Controller, and lives in the R.A.F. Mess, where he is affectionately known as 'Crango,' a corruption of 'Pongo,' and an unpleasant nickname by which we know the R.A.F. Airfield Troop's main occupation is looking after the 2,000-line automatic exchange at Sharjah, but it also has detachments at Masirah and Salalah.

(Continued on page 265)

(Continued from page 264)

TYPICAL OF CORPS RESPONSIBILITIES, 1970
A Signalman on his own in a remote and barren corner of the world keeps the vital messages going. The operator is Signalman Brian McLean of 222 Signal Squadron, Sharjah, on a "C" Type Rebro which was dropped into position by helicopter. The photograph was taken by Lance-Corporal Furby

Sport in abundance

In addition to the varied operational role of the Squadron, there is ample opportunity for sport. The photographs show **Lance-Corporal Harry Pegg** finishing second in the Gulf Inter-Services Athletics Meeting, held recently in Bahrain. He has since been awarded his British Troops Sharjah Army Colours, and leaves the Squadron on posting to 21st Signal Regiment in June. Nobody is quite sure how **Lance-Corporal Chris Furby** managed 74 days in Cyrpus, on the sunny slopes of Mount Olympus as a ski-ing instructor. However he managed it, which only goes to prove that anything is possible in the modern Army! We are still wondering how to use his skill here.

The Squadron seven-a-side rugby team, the Casuals, played hard and well to win the finals of a knockout competition organised by the local civilian club, the Dubai Exiles. One of the star performers, **Corporal 'H' Mate** had two teeth pushed through his lower lip, but continued helping the team to victory, after the rapid administering of three stitches on the field of play. We breed them hard here.

Sergeant Andy Russell runs the Squadron soccer team, which recently produced two candidates for the Inter-Services match in Bahrain, and a large number of abrasions on **Sergeant Russell.**

Goodbye

At the time of writing, we are saying goodbye to **Captain Eddie Hampson** (Radio Troop) after a hectic exercise season. **Captain Hampson** was a king-pin in Forces Radio, Sharjah, which brings a professional standard of radio entertainment to all forces in Sharjah and European families in the Trucial States.

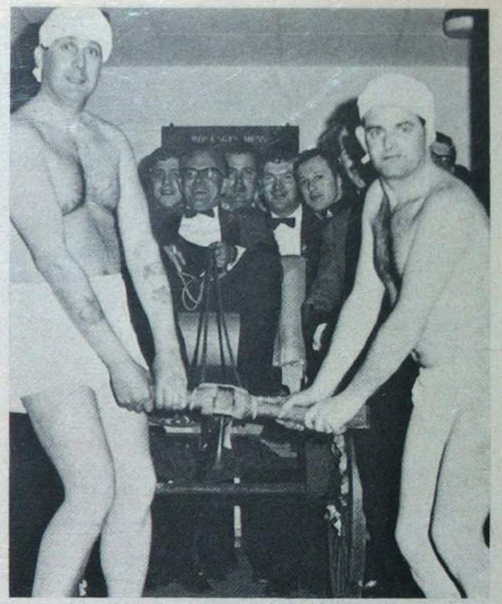
223 Signal Squadron (Radio) Winchester

'C.Q.' Signing off

MAJOR **Peter Clague-Quine** was literally 'dragged out' of 223 Signal Squadron on 11th April.

Joining the Royal Signals from the Merchant Service some 23 years ago, he came up through the ranks. Time and again in recent years he has championed the cause of the operating trades and was instrumental in achieving the marked improvements which now hold in those trades.

Known affectionately as 'C.Q.' by members of the Corps right round the globe, he was given a rousing send-off by the



[Photograph: Signalman H. F. Hodder

DEPARTURE
Two strange 'steeds' harnessed-in to take 'CQ' away at the end of the evening

Sergeants' Mess. They, rightly, claiming to be representative of that much larger force which could have been mustered from all who knew and respected him.

Stalwart steeds at the all-important ceremony were **Sergeant Bob Mawson** (left of picture) and **Staff Sergeant Ray Matson.**

Target golf

One sees so much about assaults on golf courses these days that, to be different, we thought we would tell you about the golf on our assault course. Actually, in a unit like ours we don't use an assault course all that much, and it is a bit far from lovers' lane too. Of course, the motor cycle mob have one or two of the nastier bits marked out for practice purposes. Small wonder then that our golfing fraternity got their beady eyes on it.

Not large enough for a real course—anyway there are plenty of those in the surrounding countryside—it was decided that it would come in nicely for a bit of target golf. This, as everyone knows, is ideal practice for the real thing.

Any problems about a labour force for building the tee never really got off the ground after the C.O., **Major Tony Bushell,** a keen golfer, was seen doing a nifty bit of spade-work himself. In three weeks all was ready. A very successful little operation that is already attracting new blood to the game. All you need to start with is a few balls and a club.

So that is the story of golf on our assault course. Mind you, with the amount of flying turf and suchlike that is sometimes to be seen, it's a safe bet the old assault course is beginning to remember what it was like to be assaulted.

T.T. Team

It's a rare unit that can boast its own motor cycle T.T. team, but of course . . . we can. Built on what could be salvaged from some old, and distinctly obsolete, Army bikes, it took no small amount of ingenuity and a deal of skill to come up with something that would stand up to the hard knocks of competition work.

An interest bordering on fanaticism is required to produce such machines and that is just what the members of this team

[Photo: Signalman H. F. Hodder

A HOMEMADE T.T. TEAM (See unit notes)
Left to Right: Corporal Cardwell, Signalmen Coker, Corporal Lloyd, and Signalman Ince

generate. Under the watchful eye of team leader **Sergeant Jimmy 'Mr. Fixit' Rhind,** Q.M. Department's **Corporal George Cardwell,** Training Wing clerk **Corporal Eddie Lloyd** and drivers **Signalman Derek Coker** and **Signalman Bruce 'Jinx' Ince,** whose major ambition was to be a real despatch rider, go to make up the 223 Signal Squadron motor cycle trials team.

They have already put in appearances at one or two Army competitions with some encouraging results. At last, however, they feel they can really rise to the challenge. Two new bikes have just come their way and there are plans to re-hash all those bits again to produce a 'super-duper' third. If all goes well a three-bike entry in the Southern Command Championships in June this year promises a bit of exciting riding if nothing else.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Sergeants' Mess joins student riots

IT all began at one of those quieter type of Mess meetings with a proposition that the Mess visit the Amstel Brewery in Amsterdam. It was not known at the time that the date selected was the same as the date decided upon by the local students (long-haired types) to hold a students' riot, and that the location chosen to meet the bus for the return trip was just the place our educated friends decided to start the riot. It is still not known what the riot was all about though some suggested it was due to **Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell,** who never could understand Dutch, causing a stir by going into the 'Ladies' by mistake!

It was not long after our **Sergeant 'Bob' Williamson** had remarked that two British 'Bobbies' would clear the lot in three minutes that he hit his head against a policeman's truncheon—bored with the whole proceedings, he then took a nap for a while!—while **R.Q.M.S. 'Ron' Postlethwaite** just kept ahead of a police motor cycle and side car which was doing its best to earn a place in the display team.

The Mess Entertainments Committee deny emphatically that they organised the riot as part of the evening's entertainment.

Bed, breakfast and 230 volts for twenty

Expecting the first question to be "Where do you get the duty-free fags and drink from," it was something of a surprise to be discussing locations of aerials within minutes of the arrival of members of 39 TAVR here in Maastricht over the weekend. A most business-like team arrived for the weekend quite determined to communicate. An offer of transport to visit local beauty and talent spots was politely refused and the only request was for 230 volts to plug into.

We are still not sure what 39 do for a living other than tap morse keys but they certainly left giving an impression of a quiet, efficient outfit who take soldiering seriously.

T.T.F.N.

Tomorrow sees the beginning of a few farewell parties.

First one off is **S.S.M. 'Brian' Brewer,** off to 244 Signal Squadron, followed later this month by **Captain (T.O.T.) Geoff Hudson** who leaves us for 223 Signal Squadron. A large gap will be left by **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ron Postlethwaite** (bless his cotton socks 9s. 8d. a pair) who is to become R.S.M. at 10th Signal Regiment. **Signalman 'Pete' Hainsworth** heads East to 1 Divisional Signal Regiment. Finally **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Brian Fisher** hands over his motor pool and Sergeants' Mess to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Burke,** ex-30th Signal Regiment.

£ for £

With the Squadron all on the bank credit system the local Amsterdam/Rotterdam Bank who we mostly deal with sent us an invitation (which coincided with the pay rise) to play them at soccer. We accepted the challenge and who would have believed that a soccer match in April could be called off due to a blizzard. The score is believed to have been three loans to five refusals discussed over a beer or two gathered round the radiators. It is quite an experience to serve in a country where not only are the natives friendly, but the Bank Managers also!

Wives' Club

On the principle of happy wife—happy soldier we should have quite a lot of the latter about the place. From all reports the club continues to flourish (and make money). It has now been understood that they are not supposed to put 20 wives in one mini bus (**Mary Bell** please note).

Those who have left the Squadron may like to know that **Doreen Whitfield** and **Hilda Woollons** now 'run' the thrift shop from 'N' Block, while **Jenny Pinkus** has taken over as secretary. By the time this goes to press yet another 'nosh' evening will have taken place—if **Joan Pearce** lets go of the purse strings long enough.

All change

As **Sergeant John** (can I join the Royal Signals) **Bex,** our Pay Sergeant ends his Exercise 'Pay Review' and sits back to relax until the next pay rise the Squadron sets out to earn the extra lolly on yet another exercise. I assume there must be a sea crossing involved as most of the pre-exercise conversations centred round the importance of micro-waves.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in April	48
Number of clothing parcels sent	45
Amount spent in Grants and Loans	£871 14 5

One of the Month's Cases

WIDOW of Corporal who served throughout the war and died in 1964 after a long illness. The widow and her two children are all delicate and have had a bad winter, and the Association made her a grant of £25 to help her with her rates.

One of the Month's Letters

I TAKE this opportunity to express the gratitude of both my wife and myself for the wonderful gift and the chance to have a very welcome holiday with my family. I only hope that the day will come when I can perhaps do something worth while for the Association, of which I am proud and fortunate to be a member.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

B.20 HF SSB Station Radio

The B.20 is a very versatile all solid-state equipment. It can be used as a manpack or installed in vehicles and light aircraft.

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The B.20 will achieve reliable ground wave communications using 8 ft. (2.4m) whip antennae at ranges in excess of 30 miles (48.3 km). By using vehicle whip antennae distances in excess of 45 miles (72 km) are possible. Using sky wave, communication over 300 miles (480 km) is achieved.

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

Corps Band in Berlin

IT is a measure of the Royal Signals Band's abilities, when I say how much we in Berlin enjoyed their brief visit, in spite of everything the weather did to ruin it.

On 9th April the Band planned to mark the Corps' 50th birthday by playing a special 'Retreat' for Allied guests at the British Sector Headquarters in the Olympiestadion. The weather made this hopelessly out of the question. However, Keith Balding and his merry men rose to the occasion by giving us a sparkling indoor concert instead. The many guests were entertained to the first performance of '50 Years Young,' a piece composed especially for the Royal Signals' birthday by the Director of Music himself. Then followed some excellent solos, notably by **Sergeant Jimmy Grear,** the cornet player, and a selection of the liveliest music imaginable, with Spanish and western influences that delighted the audience.

Sadly, the atrocious weather also led to the cancelling of a march down West Berlin's famous Kurfurstandamm. It would have been a fine sight for us, and much appreciated by West Berliners. However, the weather couldn't stop the Royal Signals' dance, held on Friday 10th April. We danced to music provided by the Corps dance band and laughed over the cabaret they laid on.

I think the musicians enjoyed Berlin. They certainly seemed to make the most of all there is to do here. May the rest of their tour be less hampered, and may they return to Berlin very soon.

OH! TO BE IN BERLIN—NOW THAT SPRING IS HERE
This wintry scene is the Hanns Braun Platz in Berlin where the Corps Band planned to mark the 50th birthday of the Corps by playing a special Retreat for Allied guests of the British Sector. Instead the Corps Band gave sparkling indoor concert to a very appreciative audience. Included in the items was the first public performance of "50 Years Young" the piece composed specially by the Director of Music for the Corps Jubilee

240 Signal Squadron, (Northern Command) York

Matters administrative

SINCE our last appearance, we have suffered the annual torture, special to the Army, known as the annual 'Fitness for Role Inspection,' carried out, as last year, by our Chief Signal Officer, **Colonel Basil Hayles.** Needless to say, it was not accompanied by the degree of pain so often associated with these affairs, and we are always glad to see him, particularly at our outstations, who are very much out on a limb.

Touring Commander—then and now

"We have a Command Aviation Flight, so let's use it," was the O.C.'s cry. He was about to visit our civilian telecommunications staff at Longtown, on the Scottish border, and our Ace High station at Brizlee Wood, near Alnwick, Northumberland. So the idea was to save a long flog by car, which would take at least two days to do both visits. 15 Flight A.A.C. (commanded by **Major Keith Wilson,** Royal Signals, attached A.A.C. —how about *you* doing some WIRE notes, Keith?) was duly requisitioned by G.H.Q., Northern Command, and happily said they could cope. Normal picking-up point for these hops is a long piece of concrete near York, called Elvington, but the flight is based as R.A.F., Topcliffe. Dawned the day, and snow, fog, rain and every other kind of discouragement to launching into the air presented itself. "Could take-off be delayed an hour?" "Yes," says the O.C. "Delighted to delay an hour." Forty minutes later, a 'phone call: "Could you come to Topcliffe and will start from there?" So, off to Topcliffe went the staff car. Neither the O.C. nor his W.R.A.C. driver had been to Topcliffe before, but the road signs seemed clear enough, except that they kept coming to the same crossroads—it transpired that the North Riding County Council had put in the signpost the wrong way round—reminiscent of the 'Woosleam bird' that flies round in ever-decreasing circles with the most awful consequences. Topcliffe was duly reached, and a very pleasant day's journey by air (saving much time and traffic worries) was enjoyed. 'Wilson Airways' delivered a very satisfied passenger back at Topcliffe at 18.00 hours the same day. How long would this journey have taken 50 years ago! We understand that our distinguished 2 Group Commander does not care much for light aviation flying—try 'Wilsonair,' sir, and perhaps you will change your mind.

241 Signal Squadron, Chester

Not quite the place it used to be

AS I write, spring has arrived in Saighton Camp, and the gentle patter of sleet on my office roof is broken only by the occasional thunderous crash of yet another end wall falling from a deserted barrack room. Having known Saighton at the zenith of its life, when it housed the Corps' Depot Regiment, to walk around it now puts me in mind of the military equivalent of a Wild West ghost town. There is, of course, a little good in the most evil of situations, and in this instance it is, I must confess, rather pleasant to be able to walk openly past the front of the now-deserted Orderly Room, in contrast to the time when I was inclined to skulk round the back way in order to avoid **Jimmy Dignan's** pointed comments on my hirsute appearance. Enough of nostalgia however, even in our anniversary year, and let us look at more recent events.

Unit Club takes shape

Our annual inspection took place on 5th March, and everything seemed to run smoothly for us once again. After the inspection proper, the inspecting officer, **Colonel T. H. C. Grigg,** C.S.O., Western Command, asked that the Squadron gather in the 'Gentlemen's Rest,' and whilst there he expressed his hope that the refitting now in progress would be complete in time for the club to be used for our own celebration of anniversary year. On a basis of 'your wish is my command, Sahib,' work is now proceeding with renewed vigour. Incidentally, the bar is complete, and if any reader passing through our area would like to pop in for a noggin, the club is quite easy to find, we are occupying the premises which were formerly the Depot Regiment Sergeants' Mess.

Departing

Our D.S.O., **Captain Nutt,** recently departed for warmer climes, to be replaced by **Captain 'Jock' Reid,** whom many readers will know as an 'ex-rat' of Kemmel lines vintage. During the month, **Corporal Young,** who aspires to higher things, will be leaving us to start his pre-release course as a steeplejack. His relief, **Corporal Farrell,** is presently trying to accustom himself to the U.K. economy.

A Versatile M.T. Section

In our last contribution I rather think I may have forgotten to mention the M.T. Section. To avoid further wear on my boots, D.M.S., may I now rectify the omission. Operating under the guidance of **Corporal Heighway,** they provide SDS for H.Q., Westen Command, plus a host of local details. The details clerk, **Lance-Corporal Harris,** has achieved local fame by his ability to send the same vehicle to Shrewsbury and Pembroke Dock, arriving at both destinations simultaneously, no mean feat, when one considers that the vehicle was VOR in workshops at the time.

Visit by Commander, 2 Signal Group

To round off the month, on 30th April, we were visited by the Commander, 2 Signal Group, **Colonel F. M. S. Winter, M.B.E.,** who showed a keen interest in all aspects of the Squadron's activities.

To conclude, I would like to pass on a hint to others who, like myself, have the job of selling 'The Wire.' When I first joined the unit, I had difficulty in selling our full order. Since then I have written two contributions and now they start worrying me for their copies about a week before publication. (Keep at it!—Editor).

242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh

Ace High, Saxa Vord, Shetland Detachment

SAXA VORD is an R.A.F. camp situated on the northern most island of the Shetlands. By the camp's main gate stands a notice warning wandering Norwegian fishermen and lost seals to keep out. Inside, the slightly stir-crazy personnel count the days left to do of their sentence. Five of these inmates are Royal Signals technicians who (depending on the state of their sobriety, provide an Ace High communications link. These hardened souls commute to the top of the highest and draughtiest hill of the island, for there squats the terminal station. Occasionally they walk up; sometimes they cannot get up.

Introducing some of our Technicians

Supervisor of this station is **Seregant John Jarratt,** who has just crashed out of this prison-with-no-bars island to snatch a couple of weeks of well-deserved leave. No stranger to the Ace High system (and five-star Martell) **Sergeant Jarrett** will be leaving us soon for a mainland station. Meanwhile, his capable and nonchalant deputy, **Corporal Jimmy Millar,** is in charge, and seems to like it for, as he says, he can take it. **Corporal Millar's** Irish shoulders treat the load of paper-work with the same scorn he gives to his rugby opponents.

The other assistant technicians are: **Corporal George Robertson,** whose love in life, an nth handed-down car, appears to have succumbed to the salt air at last, and has given up the ghost, despite his threatened curses to push it in the after-life; **Corporal Alan Casey,** who has just recently joined us, but who has already established a place in the R.A.F. football team, which ventures weekly off-island in pursuit of sport and fair game, and **Lance-Corporal Glenn Pennington,** who has the distinction of being the only 'lance-jack' on the island and who has grown a little weary of running to keep fit in the high winds, since he wants to live a little longer.

Fond remembrance must also be paid to **Coporal Pete ('Pongo') Forshaw,** who has just departed for the warmer climes of Catterick, and whose 'winding-down' weeks prior to deportation, were watched with awe. The Aces High skittle team will especially miss him, as it was his glorious strike and spare which enabled us to be in the final; the same hand has given the darts team a good start.

Our morale is high

Despite the permanent wind (which all too often reaches gale force) and the very unpredictable weather, the isolation of the camp (any DUKWs selling cheap?), and a four-mile walk to the only local, our morale is high, for there are natural attractions, such as the scenery, the varied species of wild bird-life, and an abundance of sheep. When summer arrives it will bring outdoor activities, from yachting to midnight golf, open air dancing—which really livens up when the 'Shetcong' (the natives) uncork their winter batch of vintage home-brew. "Treat Saxa Vord well and it will give you a good time," is what we say whilst on leave.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

252 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

ON 1st April, Hong Kong became independent of FARELF. Outward signs of the change for us have been the increases in the number of messages handled, telephones installed and senior officers saluted. No change in our establishment—we just work that bit harder! Not that we are complaining; the summer months will provide us with plenty of opportunities to get away from it all and enjoy our new fleet of sailing craft.

In, out and through

V.I.P. visitors continue to arrive with regularity. During recent weeks we have welcomed **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent,** the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas, C.S.O. FARELF, and the senior members of the Swiss Signal Corps.

Captain John Selby has handed in his sports kit and has taken his family off to join 16th Regiment in Krefeld, where he will soon be joined by **Corporal Beverley Daley,** our number one sportswoman (rugby, hockey, swimming, water polo, squash and netball, officers of 16th Regiment, please note). **Yeoman Noel Anderson** has had enough of air-conditioned commcens and has gone off to join 204 Squadron. **Corporals Lewis** and **Fothergill,** our worthy underground cable fixers, have departed westwards, as has **Signalman 'Chalky' White,** goalkeeper extraordinary. To them all, our thanks and good wishes.

Meanwhile, back at Victoria Barracks, **Captain John Higton** is well esconced in Radio Troop. **Yeoman Bill Cheesman** has just stepped off a 707 at Kai Tak, and **Sergeant Thornton** and **Corporal Emery** have arrived to boost the dwindling number of girls in the commcen, where the wastage rate (if you will pardon the expression) due to marriage, is rapidly approaching our traffic totals.

Birds, feathery

Signalman Mitchell and eagle

One of the more unusual sights hereabouts is **Signalman Bob Mitchell** taking his bird for a walk. **Mitchell** is the proud owner of two tiercel imperial eagles, which he keeps in a *disused* barrack room. Apart from a tendency to bristle at the sight of a helicopter, the birds are quite placid and the owner assures us that they make excellent pets. Bird-watchers in the barracks never had it so good.

Birds, whirly

Until such time as **Mitchell** can train his eagles to carry despatches, we shall continue to rely on our friends from 656 Army Aviation Squadron to provide a helicopter service for the clearance of SDS traffic within the Colony. With the helipad not 30 yards from the commcen, we are able to clear despatches to Sek Kong within ten minutes, as against an hour and three-quarters by road.

Hockey

At the beginning of the season, hockey enthusiasts in the unit totalled thirteen, of whom eight had actually played before. With this 'impressive well of talent' from which to draw, **R.Q.M.S. Reg Norris** set about arranging fixtures. As the season draws to a close, the team finds itself the premier minor unit side in the Colony, winners of the 51 Brigade Trophy and finalists in the Land Forces Championship. An indication of the team's standing in local hockey circles was an invitation to play Nav Bharat, the foremost side in the Colony. Far from being overawed, the Squadron players extended the Indian team to the utmost, finally going down fighting (metaphorically, of course) by two goals to one. The following players have represented 51 Brigade in the Hong

Kong League: **R.Q.M.S. Norris, Corporal Clarke, Lance-Corporal Gough, Lance-Corporal Sweet, Signalmen Hayes, Hartley** and **Wooff.**

Soccer

We finished the season on a high note, winning the Land Forces Minor Units Cup by beating R.M.P., Hong Kong, 3—2 in an exciting game. **Sergeant Mac Fraser** says he is hanging up his boots (again), but we expect to see him out there next season, giving some of the younger players the run-around.

Salute to four old soldiers

The unit will lose four of its stalwarts when **Corporal Lam Chee** and **Signalman Tsoi Pan** and two of our stalwart civilians retire in August. All enlisted in 1948. **Corporal Lam Chee,** our faithful post N.C.O., has covered innumerable miles on his rounds in Victoria Barracks, in fair weather and foul, appearing with clock-like precision at the appointed time and place.

To say that **Tsoi Pan** is a storeman is an understatement. He is the original 'jack-of-all-trades,' and has been a mainstay of the unit for many years.

Tang Ma Tsoi is a driver, but worked for many years as a carpenter with 'M' Troop.

Ho Wai Wan is the senior lineman in SWS Troop. He has a comprehensive knowledge of the cable system in Hong Kong.

We shall find it hard to replace these worthies, and it is with the greatest reluctance that we bid them 'farewell.'

W.R.A.C., Hong Kong

The most notable event this year has been the visit of **H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent.** The Duchess took an interest in all she saw and, having lived in Hong Kong, was able to exchange first-hand views with the girls on life in the Colony. Marriage continues to play havoc with the commcen shift rosters. Next month, **Lance-Corporal Amblin, Lance-Corporal Rowatt, Private Beeching** and **Private Howarth** 'take the plunge. To them—our congratulations and good wishes. To W.R.A.C. Records—Help!

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

Principal appointments

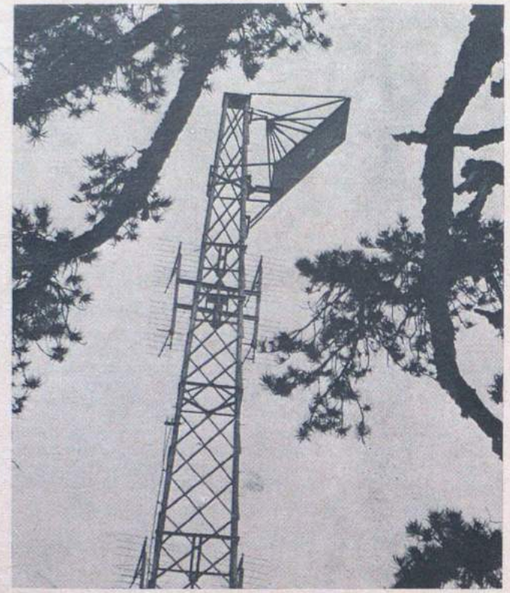
O.C.	**Major A. S. McK. Anderson**
Second-in-Command ...	**Captain R. E. Barber**
Chief Systems Engineer ...	**Captain M. S. Davies**
Q.M.	**Captain (Q.M.) J. Sinclair**
O.C. East Troop	**Second-Lieutenant A. R. Lee**
O.C. Engineer Troop ...	**W.O.I (F. of S.) E. Short**
O.C. West Troop	**W.O.II (F. of S.) D. Lanyon**
S.S.M.	**W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. Kelly**

A modest success

The spring season being with us, and those who can be spared have been taking part in either Royal Signals (Cyprus) shoots, patrol races or the Cyprus Walkabout. Whilst we had little team success in the shooting or walkabout events, **Sergeant Macgilp** was runner-up in the Individual Rifle Competition. The Squadron patrol race team, of **Sergeant Paulley, Corporals Trehearn, Hulme, Warburton, Barnett, Whillier, Collins, Lance-Corporals Massingham Rogers** and **Grieve** fared much better, and finished a creditable fifth out of eleven teams. There is nothing to report from the sporting scene, winter sports having finished and the summer ones in their practice stage still.

Extremes of climate

This month we feature the Troodos and Olympus detachments. The two stations are located close together in the heart of the Troodos Mountains. They enjoy the benefits of extremes in climate; during the winter, the temperatures remain below zero for some months and several feet of snow is general; because of this, Troodos is one of the best winter sports resorts in the Middle East. During the summer the temperature soars up into the eighties during the day, but cools off during the evening, giving some welcome relief. (Which is more than us poor mortals on the plains get). From Mount Olympus, on a clear day, one gets a bird's eye view of practically the whole of Cyprus, and if the heat haze is not too bad, Turkey is plainly visible.



UP THE MOUNTAINS

A micro-wave reflector plate and V.H.F. arrays. We have a good mixture up the mountain

LAMPSHADE OR BEEHIVE?

Sergeant Heath disappears into the antenna prototype cover at Troodos. This is used to protect antennas from snow and ice

A radio type's paradise

The detachments form the major part of the Royal Signals Troodos Troop, the rest being made up of elements of 261 and 262 Squadrons. The Olympus detachment, being packed with radios, is a radio type's paradise, or nightmare, depending how you look at it. **Sergeant Craine** is the N.C.O.-in-charge, ably assisted by **Corporals Boxall, Nesbitt-Clark, Indge** and **Morgan.** Apart from ski-ing in the winter, the sports facilities are somewhat limited, but there are sufficient extra mural activities to keep all concerned happy. **Corporal Nesbitt-Clarke** is one of the leading lights of the local drama group and **Corporal Boxall** is a keen shot. **Corporal Indge** recently made his contribution to Anglo/Greek relations by marrying **Maria Demosthenous,** a Platres girl.

Quite hard worked

The Troodos detachment is a somewhat quieter site, though still quite hard-worked. N.C.O.-in-charge is **Sergeant Goodwin,** with **Corporals Ellett, Brown, Watson** and **Savery** manning the station. **Corporal Ellett** is a keen fisherman, although his style is somewhat cramped, living 5,800 feet above sea level.

Calling all ex-D.C.N. (Cyprus) technical types

Found, during a recent sort-out of documents from the days of DCN, an ISLP for 'Locomotives Steam with Tender British Austerity." We always knew DCN used steam radio, but surely this was taking things a bit far. Any claimants! Don't be shy, 'nom de plumes' will be accepted.

☆ ☆ ☆

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Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

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262 SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM ROYAL SIGNALS (CYPRUS) CHAMPIONS

Back row, left to right: Corporal Mark Eaton, Signalman Keith Alderson, Signalman Pete Simpson, Corporal Henry Sharp, Corporal Jeff Callaway
Front row, left to right: W.O.II. (S.S.M.) Terry Martin, Corporal Tom Wilson, Sergeant Frank Salmon, Corporal Gordon Scott, Corporal George Coles

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

Skill at Arms success

ON Thursday, 16th April, **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Terry Martin** was one of the happiest men in the Near East, having just scored a splendid double success at the Royal Signals (Cyprus) Skill at Arms Meeting.

The task of organising the competition this year had been given to the Squadron, and the S.S.M. found himself faced with the threefold problem of planning the meeting, training the Squadron team and improving his own skill as a member of that team. Several weeks of hard work—during which time he almost took up residence on Dhekelia ranges—paid handsome dividends. With wholehearted co-operation and assistance from 9th Regiment, and 259 and 261 Squadrons, the competition ran without a hitch, resulting in an enjoyable and exciting day's shooting.

In a very close finish, we were overall winners, with 1 Squadron, 9th Regiment, second. In fact, the two teams tied with equal points scored and the championship was decided by our having won the rifle match. **Corporal Jeff Callaway** was Champion Young Soldier—a sweet victory, as he was runner-up in 1969, having been defeated on a count-back after a tie with the winner.

After congratulating all competitors and officials for their efforts to make the meeting a success, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** Commander, 3rd Signal Group, presented the prizes.

Patrol Race—Exercise 'Milisk'

Despite having trained just as hard as the shooting team, **Sergeant Joe Albon's** patrol race team was unable to achieve the same success. However, in finishing seventh, out of eleven teams, they were far from disgraced, and showed a high degree of competence in every phase of the competition.

The exercise was designed to test non-Infantry unit teams in the military skills required for a 24-hour patrol, and it proved to be a tough test. Beginning with a tactical bivouac, and map-reading in deceptive evening light, the patrols were required to carry out night compass marches, vehicle fault-finding, basic radio communication, a daylight tactical forced march, complete with an ambush (in temperatures near 90°F.), and grenade-throwing, before finishing with a combined assault course and fire and movement range practice.

Although they did not win, the team put up a thoroughly creditable performance and learned some valuable lessons for next year. Special mention must be made of **Corporal Mark Eaton,** who took part with both hands badly skinned as a result of a motor cycle accident, and **Corporal Pip Dinsdale,** who refused to give in, even though he was badly affected by the heat during the forced march.

A "GARBLE" OF COMMUNICATORS

Amongst the mixed bag of communicators in H.M.S. Intrepid are many members of 661 Troop. In the background a Skynet 5 Satellite Terminal

661 Signal Troop (LPD)
H.M.S. Intrepid
B.F.P.O. Ships

Pre-Embarkation Training

THE new 661 Signal Troop formed at Blandford on 5th January under **Captain Andrew Briggs** and **Yeoman Derek Allen.** The next few weeks made up that hectic period known as pre-embarkation training, at H.M.S. *Mercury,* H.M.S. *Phoenix,* the Royal Marine Signal Training Wing, the School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment. To each of these must go our thanks for their assistance. We finally left Blandford on 16th February in a dark-blue bus proudly bearing the legend 'Royal Navy' in large white letters on the side. We were Plymouth bound.

Plymouth

When we joined H.M.S. *Intrepid* she was still in dockyard hands. Quite whether she was being taken to bits, put together, or what, was not apparent. Gradually, as the days passed, however, it became clear that the end of the refit was in sight. Unfortunately, communications were at a minimum. Not deterred, however, some radio and telegraph operators descended on the one means that did work—the telephone exchange—determined to communicate somehow. Others gave their attention to welding, painting, gash-clearing and the 'Wrens' of H.M.S. *Drake.* About this time we bade farewell to **Corporal Doughty,** who joined the ship in Singapore, 15 months ago, and now, tour complete, moves on with our best wishes to the Cadre of R.M.A., Sandhurst.

Communications . . .

The ship's latest acquisition is a Skynet 5 Satellite Terminal, of which we are very proud. Not that the technicians will let us near it yet, but we are allowed to provide an HF engineering circuit for their trials! More conventionally, we have had Jocomexes with 3rd Divisional Signal Regiment, 5 Brigade Signal Squadron and 24 Brigade Signal Squadron.

. . . and other activities

On the rugby field, **Corporal 'Taff' Lewis** and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' King** have made their presence felt in the ship's first and second fifteens. **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' McCarthy** has established his place in the hockey team, as has **Corporal Pete Drage** in the football team. Devoting some of their spare time to a worthy cause are **Lance-Corporal Clifford** and **Signalman Dimsdale,** who were amongst the first group of volunteers who visited Albertha Children's Surgical Ward of Greenbank Hosiptal, Plymouth, to mark the formal adoption of the ward by H.M.S. *Intrepid.*

First Sea Week

15.15 hours, 27th April: H.M.S. *Intrepid* slips and proceeds gently down the River Tamar towards the sea, after completing ten-and-a-half months alongside; a feeling of relief and expectation sweeps through the ship; we've made it at last. Flag Officer Plymouth signals "It's good to see you under way again." Thereafter followed a week of sea trials. The ship is steamed in circles to confuse the Skynet aerial and in straight lines to test the distance recorder; anchors and landing craft are raised and lowered; the ship is ballasted down; all systems are tested. The ship's company are tried as well. We close up to action and emergency stations; we rescue imaginary men overboard. Meanwhile, work in the communications department increases apace—Fleet broadcast, RATT Ship Shore, Tug Net, Fleet Ready Use, and a dozen other circuits provide employment for communicators in blue and brown uniforms. 661 Troop is operational at last.

Scarborough Signal Training Centre Scarborough

The Rhine Army Signals left Dotzheim, near Weisbaden, Germany, in October, 1929, to return to the U.K. They took over Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, and became 5th Divisional Signals.

They soon settled in and became a part of the Scarborough scene, playing in local football, rugby, hockey and athletics, and opening the barracks socially to the local inhabitants. The small permanent staff these days still take part in local sport and we still entertain the locals at our social functions.

In the old days, the horses were exercised on the beach below the barracks before breakfast; these days it's the young recruits from CT Troop, 11th Signal Regiment who wake up the O.C., **Major Jim Bevan,** running down to the beach at some unearthly hour of the morning.

Some of the original Rhine Army Signals married local girls, and they frequently call in at the barracks. At least eight are still members of the local Association branch, and they still enjoy their 'curry suppers' at the barracks on their monthly get-togethers.

We welcome **Corporal Vaughan** from 3rd Division Signal Regiment, and **Corporal Coatesworth** from 225 Signal Squadron, and hope their stay in this seaside resort will be a happy one.

31st (Greater London) Signal Regt. (V) Hammersmith

Presentations

ON Wednesday, 15th April, a representative detachment from each Squadron paraded at R.H.Q. Hammersmith on the occasion of the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to two members of the Permanent Staff. The parade was under the command of the Second-in-Command, **Major D. A. B. Crawford,** and the presentation was made by **Brigadier R. H. Borthwick,** Commander of 11 Signal Group (V). The first presentation was to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. S. R. Alfred,** Royal Signals; after hearing his citation read out we shall no longer be able to chant "What's it all about Alfie,' because now we know! He has been around during his service and I know he is well known in the Regular Corps; unfortunately, from our point of view he is leaving us in September on commissioning. To say the very least we shall miss him and his words of wisdom—sometimes kind, more often otherwise!

The second presentation was to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) C. H. Fawcett** who has since left the army and has emigrated to Australia. His citation left us in no doubt as to where he had been during his service, all 28½ years of it, including a double tour with the Gurkhas. What does one say about quarter-blokes? All they ever say is, "Sorry, haven't got any," but even so we all wish you, most sincerely, the very best in your new life.

After the presentation **Brigadier Borthwick** addressed the parade explaining what an honour it was to present the medals and wished both the recipients all the best. The parade was then dismissed and everyone went back to their training, after which the R.S.M. and R.Q.M.S. attended a medal-wetting session in the Sergeants' Mess.

Camp in N.W. Europe

With camp in N.W. Europe only a few weeks away we have all suffered from the C.O.'s 'gentle work-up' which started in a few feet of snow in January and culminates in a Regimental weekend in May when the Medical Officers scrape away at last-minute vaccinations whilst other equally vital administrative details are tied up.

One member of our permanent staff who, we feel, calls for special mention is **Corporal (A/Sergeant) Gordon Blood.** A year ago we gave him a T.A. Centre at Cobham (inherited from the Queen's Regiment (V) on re-organisation), five enthusiastic ex-Queen soldiers (all naturally wary at changing their cap badges), a few 'bob' out of the unit recruiting grant, and told him to go away and recruit a Radio Relay Troop. We didn't really expect to hear from him again. However, in great part due to **Sergeant Blood's** enthusiasm, ingenuity and plain hard work in the recruiting field, Cobham is now the home of a thriving Radio Relay Troop of 83 (London) Signal Squadron. Whilst we know that **Sergeant Blood** would be the first to acknowledge the support he has received from the volunteers —officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers alike—it does show what an enthusiastic young N.C.O. can achieve even when general opinion insisted that "You'll never get any recruits at Cobham."

Talking of Cobham . . .

Talking of Cobham, the Troop now boasts a football team. Having beaten the local youth club they recently threw out a reckless challenge to Line Troop at Harrow. Played on a pitch soaked by rain, the match could have passed as an energetic form of mud-wrestling (or even water polo). Cobham (to our surprise) won 5—2, but the 'hairies' insist that by arranging to meet in the bar and then turning up an hour late the Cobham boys won by virtue of 'gamesmanship' verging on downright cheating.

The next thrilling episode

Having broken our monastic oath after nearly a year, we hope that the Editor will excuse us from any further contribution until we report on our European escapade in a later edition of THE WIRE. We advise you to place a regular order now so as not to miss this next enthralling episode.

Finally, and I'm not sure whether I dare say it, 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (ex-Cavalry Signals World War I) offer their congratulations to the rest of the Royal Corps of Signals on also reaching their first half-century of communicating!

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), Glasgow

Regimental H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and L.A.D.	...	Glasgow
51 (Highland) Signal Squadron (V)	...	Aberdeen
52 (Lowland) Signal Squadron (V)	...	Glasgow
61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron (V)	...	Edinburgh
69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V)	...	Londonderry

Anticipating shortage of space in this edition, we published the review of the Regiment's history in May. (*Clever chaps.—Editor*).

Affiliation with Gurkha Signals

We would like to make special mention of our affiliation with Gurkha Signals, which was inherited from 51st Highland Divisional Signal Regiment (T.A.). Two members of Gurkha Signals are currently on our permanent staff—**Major Frank Lettin,** the Training Major, and **W.O.I Smith,** the M.T.W.O., and, of course, at Group Headquarters, up the road, **Brigadier Peter Robertson** and **Major Val Swindale** also help to perpetuate the association. A number of Gurkhas visited Glasgow for a Kalaratri celebration last September, and we hope that others will join us for our jubilee celebrations at Perth later in the year.

They get on with each other after all

We should like to pay tribute to our 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V) for serving in a 'Scottish' unit without insisting that the title be changed to 'Scottish and Irish.' When the Scots and the men of Derry met at Scarborough for the first time last year, those in authority had misgivings about the outcome, but everyone was on best behaviour and there were no incidents. Now such fears are a thing of the past, and R.H.Q. are far more concerned about avoiding the aftermath of a Celtic v. Rangers match in Glasgow!

Greetings

We send greetings to all members of the Corps, past and present, who have been associated with the Regiment or its forbears, and hope that as many as can, will join us for the Scottish Jubilee Celebrations at Perth on 24th/25th October.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Visitors

THE first Scarborough weekend of 1970 was a memorable occasion for volunteers of the North East. **Major-General P. F. Pentreath** came to see us. The S.O.-in-C., accompanied by the Chief Signal Officer, Northern Command, **Colonel B. R. M. Hayles,** was welcomed by a quarter guard, commanded by **Staff Sergeant Harry Bent.**

Recruits

A tour of the Regiment at work followed. The recruits, some of them only a few days 'old' and still in plain clothes, showed the proficiency on the drill square which can be achieved after only an hour's training. The W.R.A.C., struggling hard with Trade Tests, examination nerves and feminine curiosity about the important visitor. The old Line-man Sergeant—22 years in the T.A. and knowing the General from—well, a long time ago.

Outside

A walk through fir trees to the radio relay vehicle, camouflaged against a background of frozen snow and brilliant sunshine. Talking to the Corporal detachment commander, who is a civil servant for most of the time. Watching the L.A.D. winch up a 'drill' 3-tonner in the middle of bleak, windswept dales—cheerful grins from the Tynesiders, Teessiders, Humbersiders and the rest.

Back to barracks to watch the Band, under **Sergeant Beasley,** beat Retreat. The smart blue and yellow of their No. 1 dress contrasting with the dull shine of the combat kit of the spectators.

Effort . . .

As a complete contrast, the next Scarborough weekend was 'Regimental.' After civil defence, drill and duties, first aid and other military subjects in the morning, the afternoon was taken up with the Regimental sports. A valiant effort in the old soldiers' race ensured success for **Captain Jack Raw** (he can't be *that* old!) followed a close second by the Padre. The 'Ladies-over-an-undisclosed-age' race resulted in the much-fancied favourite, **Captain Margaret Hope winning** by a well-coiffured head from **Captain Dorothy Clark.** The L.A.D. won the inter-Squadron football, but the highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Officers versus Sergeants match, which resulted in a win for the officers by one goal. The result was naturally hotly disputed as the goal posts could not be seen from five yards, due to sea mist.

Eating . . .

The annual meeting and dinner of past officers of 49th and 50th Divisional Signals took place in the evening. A welcome guest was the Mayor of Scarborough, and among the 18 Old Comrades were **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L., Brigadier T. T. J. Sheffield, C.B.E., T.D., D.L.,** and **Colonel W. A. Lee, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.**

Ecclesiastical . . .

The weekend ended with a Regimental Parade and Church Service, the latter being conducted by the Padre, **Rev. C. C. Barker, S.C.F. (V),** and the former by our new R.S.M., **W.O.I P. B. Overland.**

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham

Something about our history

THE Regiment was formed on 1st April, 1967, from 48th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (T.A.), 58th Signal Regiment (T.A.) and 319 (Guards) Signal Squadron, with most of the volunteers coming from 48th Signal Regiment. The 48th is directly descended from the old Birmingham Electrical Engineer Volunteers, and in 1908, its predecessor formed part of the Territorial Force as South Midland Divisional Telegraph Company. In 1920, with the raising of the new Territorial Army, the 48th Divisional Signals was formed in Birmingham. Its links with the Birmingham Signal Companies were close, and a number of officers and men from these companies joined the new unit. Recently, the Regiment was strengthened by an additional Squadron formed from the Shropshire Yeomanry—a Cavalry Regiment with a long history of achievement and fine traditions. They are now settling down enthusiastically to their new role as Signallers.

35th (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) HONOURED
The Freedom of Entry into the City of Birmingham has been granted to the Regiment and the ceremony consisting of a service of dedication in Birmingham Cathedral and a march through the city will take place on 12th September. Recently the Regiment were honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Birmingham when he dined with the Officers. The S.O.-in-C. was also present. In the photograph (*left to right*) Lieutenant-Colonel J. MacLean (Commanding Officer), Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E. (Signal Officer-in-Chief), The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Alderman Neville Bosworth, LL.B.), Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P. (Honorary Colonel), Colonel H. J. Mishke (Signal Support Unit N.O.R.T.H.A.G.), Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge (The new commanding officer)

The Regiment honoured by the City of Birmingham

In recognition of the service of the Regiment and it predecessors to Birmingham, the Regiment has been granted the Freedom of Entry into the City of Birmingham by the City Council. The ceremony, consisting of a Service of Dedication in Birmingham Cathedral, followed by a march through the city, will take place on Saturday, 12th September. We are very proud of this honour, which has only been bestowed on five other units in Birmingham.

On 13th March, the Regiment was honoured by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who dined with the officers. The Signal Officer-in- Chief also dined with the Regiment on that occasion.

We welcome our new Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel David Woodbridge,** also **W.O.I John Mann, Staff**

Sergeant David Geere, Sergeants David Freeman, Colin Macmillan, Bill Stagg and **'Kiwi' Gay**. All our best wishes go to **Colonel Iain Maclean,** who left us in March for SHAPE, and to **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Norman Hutson** and **Sergeant Peter Davis.**

Fifty years with the Corps

In the Royal Corps of Signals 50th Anniversary Year, our Honorary Colonel, **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** celebrates 50 years with the Corps, having joined 48th (South Midland) Divisional Signals (T.A.) in 1920. This must be a unique achievement, and we offer him our sincere congratulations.

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)

A look over the years

FIFTY years ago—1920—the first World War had finished two years ago, a 'Land Fit for Heroes' was to be created and, mercifully, the Territorial Army was being re-formed.

Among the units coming into being were the 1st (Home Counties) Cinque Ports Field Brigade R.A. (T.A.) and the 54th (East Anglian) Divisional Signals T.A. We trace our ancestry through the two units—our 44th (Cinque Ports) Signal Squadron from the former and 45th (Essex) and 54th (East Anglian) Signal Squadrons from the latter.

Changes there have been during the last 50 years — and necessary, too—in the way of organisation, roles, equipment and training. But one thing has not changed and that is the adaptability, enthusiasm, determination and professionalism of the citizen soldier, be he called Militia man, Territorial or Volunteer.

Today we can look back with pride and look forward with confidence; we have a challenging and interesting communications role in the Forward Maintenance Area in B.A.O.R. where we train every second year.

We recruit throughout East Anglia and South East England in nine centres from Norwich to Eastbourne. In Eastbourne we raise and train 858 and 859 Corps Troops for 22nd Signal Regiment (they will be training with 22nd Regiment in June).

In this anniversary year we will be represented at the Corps Celebrations at Blandford in a static display, although our attendance will be token as we are then at Camp at Scarborough. Later on, in September, we are holding a motorised parade and open day in the London Borough of Redbridge to mark both the fact that we have the Freedom of the Borough and the 50th Anniversary.

Working-up exercises

The Squadrons are now holding their Spring working-up exercises ready for annual camp at Scarborough in June. The last events of the indoor season took place on 18th/19th April when the officers had a study weekend at the Saxon Inn, Harlow. They entertained at dinner **Colonel A. Noble, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.,** Vice-Chairman of the T. & A.V.R. Council, **Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, C.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L.,** Chairman of Eastern T.A.V.R. Association, **Brigadier H. E. Hunter Jones, M.C., T.D., A.D.C., D.L., J.P.,** Chairman of Essex County Committee, and **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.,** and **Major M. M. Barker,** of 12th Signal Group (V). The visitors from Group gave a presentation during the Study Period, which also included an excellent presentation by **Captain P. Webb,** Royal Signals, and his team from the Defence N.B.C. School.

This team worked hard for the Regiment during the weekend since they also instructed the W.O.s and S.N.C.O.s at their Study Period at Vange. The team were guests of the W.O.s' and S.N.C.O.s' Mess at dinner on the Saturday night.

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

Carrying Greetings to the Prime Minister of Malta

LIVING up to their title, detachments of the City of London Signal Regiment were proud to carry on their overseas exercise greetings from the Lord Mayor of London to the Maltese Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

39th SIGNAL REGIMENT PROVIDE A MOBILE DISPLAY IN THE LONDON TAVR PARADE

From left to right: Signalman Ian Taylor, Lance-Corporal Kitt, W.O.II Bob Newman and Signalman Laurie Hinds demonstrate a mobile field radio detachment

The Lord Mayor's message ran:

"It gives me great pleasure to convey the good wishes of the City of London to the people of Gibraltar (and Malta). I trust that the visit of the 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment will help to cement the friendship between the two communities."

In reply, the Prime Minister of Malta wrote:

"I am grateful to you for your kind message of good wishes on the occasion of the visit to Malta of a detachment of the 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment. Malta's best wishes go to the Corporation and Citizens of London for their continued prosperity and well-being."—**G. Borg Olivier.**

A similar message was handed by Gibraltar's Chief Minister, **Major Robert Peliza,** to the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Walker,** for safe delivery to the Lord Mayor in London.

The London T.A.V.R. Parade

The Greater London T.A.V.R. parade held at Horse Guards on 19th May featured a large detachment from the City's own Signal Regiment.

Marching Detachments of Royal Signals and W.R.A.C. personnel escorted a 3-tonner depicting a field detachment fully equipped with radio sets, tents and even the equipment needed for a 'brew.' A self-contained P.A. system bombarded the onlookers with top-volume morse just to show that we were not just a group of pretty faces.

Our Parachute Squadron brought up the rear with a second 3-tonner bearing the bravest man on parade—**Signalman Brian Creasy,** who volunteered to hang in a parachute harness for three-quarters-of-an-hour! We tactfully refrained from asking him how he felt afterwards!

The salute at the parade was taken by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, and after the march past hundreds of onlookers surged on to Horse Guards to take a closer look at the vehicles and displays which went on for two hours.

A parachute ground training display was provided by the 39th, and it was found to be of greatest interest to dozens of five to nine-year-olds, who rolled forwards and backwards on our jumping mats with gay abandon. No recruits in that direction though!

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ROVER

ROYAL SIGNALS RUGBY XV

Back row: **Corporal Davies 30th Signal Regiment, Corporal Madren 8th Signal Regiment, Sergeant Derbyshire 8th Signal Regiment, Corporal Bardon 30th Signal Regiment, Sergeant Rookes School of Signals, Lieutenant Melhish 7th Signal Regiment, Signalman Davis 30th Signal Regiment, Corporal Higgins 7th Signal Regiment, Signalman Wilson 8th Signal Regiment, Second-Lieutenant Wilson 7th Signal Regiment, Lance-Corporal Cagilaba 7th Signal Regiment**

Seated: **Sergeant Innes 36(E) T. & A.V.R. Regiment, Sergeant Pilbeam School of Signals, Captain Backhouse School of Signals (Captain), Captain Rees Secretary 30th Signal Regiment, W.O.II. Block 30th Signal Regiment, Sergeant Tunney R.M.A.S., Sergeant Gainsford 30th Signal Regiment, Corporal McConnel 16th Signal Regiment, Lance-Corporal Arundal School of Signals**

Not included: **Captain Shiner, Captain Bally, School of Signals**

Review of Corps Rugby, 1969/70

The healthy state of Rugger in the Corps

Corps Fixtures

A TRIAL XV played the R.A.P.C. (a new fixture) on 5th November, and this resulted in a win for the Corps side by 20 points to nil.

On Monday, 12th November, we were not at full strength for our match with the Sappers, as both **Cairns** and **Wilson** were playing in an Army trial. Our light pack was well beaten by heavier and more experienced opponents, and we went down 22—9. **Byrom** kicked three good penalty goals. **Garton,** our left-centre, was crocked in the first half and left the field.

Two days later, a stronger side was fielded against R.E.M.E. Our opponents took full advantage of the wind, and at half-time were 11 points up. In the second half the Corps side pressed relentlessly and gathered nine points. Shortly before the end, a breakaway try by R.E.M.E., which was converted, brought the score to 16—9 in their favour. **Cairns** was outstanding among the forwards.

On 3rd December we had a good win over the Gunners at Bulford, 12—9. Unfortunately, **Drew** was taken to hospital after a tackle in the early minutes of the game.

Thirty-five players took part in the trials, which were held in decidedly wintry conditions on Sunday, 8th March. Unfortunately, 90 Signals Group cancelled the game due to be played on Monday, 9th March; this meant that we faced the R.M.A., on 11th March, short of competitive games, and went down 12—6 after a poor game. However, on Friday, 14th March, we struck our form and in a fast, open match, played our best rugger of the season, defeating R.C.T. 18—8. The forwards dominated the rucks and line-out. **Gainsford** was in excellent form at scrum-half, providing plenty of opportunities for the backs and scoring twice himself. **Shiner** and **Backhouse** were particularly prominent, and with better finishing, we should have scored more often.

The Inter-Corps Seven-a-Sides were played at Larkhill. This was run on a two-divisional league competition basis, with the winner of each division playing in the final. The Corps 'A' Sevens team won Division I and were beaten in the final by the Royal Marines by 23 points to 3. Two break-away tries in the first few minutes of the game gave the Marines the advantage and put the Corps side off their game, from which they never recovered.

The 'A' team was as follows:

Captain W. Backhouse (capt.), **Captain P. J. Bally, Captain R. Shiner, Captain C. Garton, Lieutenant J. Neave, Sergeant G. Rookes, Lance-Corporal D. Arundal.**

B.A.O.R. Final

7th Signal Regiment reached the final of the B.A.O.R. Army Cup Competition for the third year in succession, losing a fine game to the Royal Regiment of Wales by 14 points to 9 points.

U.K. Finals

The School of Signals reached the Southern Command final after beating the Guards Depot 37—0, and 8th Signal Regiment won the Northern Command title, beating Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, 25—6.

Corps Representation

The following players represented the Corps during the season:

Captain W. H. Backhouse (capt.), School of Signals
Captain J. J Bally, 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment
Captain R. P. Shiner, School of Signals
Captain C. Garton, School of Signals
Lieutenant R. Dransfield, 30th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant C. Byrom, 20th Armoured Brigade
Lieutenant C. Melhuish, 7th Signal Regiment
Lieutenant G. Maddren, 19th Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron
Lieutenant G Haljbuton, School of Signals

Second-Lieutenant I. Wilson, 7th Signal Regiment

W.O.II R. Block, 30th Signal Regiment

Sergeant R. J. Buxton, Signals Training Wing, Royal Marines
Sergeant A. Dodds, 8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. Derbyshire, 8th Signal Regiment
Sergeant I. Cairns, 36th (E) T. & A.V.R. Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Innes, 36th (E) T. & A.V.R. Regiment
Sergeant J. Tunney, R.M.A., Sandhurst
Sergeant D. A. Rogers, 30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. D. Rookes, School of Signals
Sergeant D. Pilbeam, School of Signals
Sergeant R. Gainsford, 30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. Stack, 30th Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. Zoing, School of Signals

Corporal J. Bardon, 30th Signal Regiment
Corporal M. Davies, 30th Signal Regiment
Corporal D. Higgins, 7th Signal Regiment
Corporal R. Marshall, 216 'Para' Brigade Signal Squadron
Corporal F. Madden, 8th Signal Regiment
Corporal W. McConnel, 16th Signal Regiment

Lance-Corporal L. Vula, School of Signals
Lance-Corporal J. Cagilaba, 7th Signal Regiment

Signalman J. Drew, 30th Signal Regiment
Signalman R. Davis, 30th Signal Regiment
Signalman R. Davis, 30th Signal Regiment
Signalman M. Wilson, 8th Signal Regiment
Signalman S. Matewaya, 216 'Para' Brigade Signal Squadron

Corps Colours

The following have been re-awarded Corps Colours for 1969/70:

Captain W. H. Backhouse, School of Signals
Lieutenant G. Maddren, 19 Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. Tunney, R.M.A.S.
Sergeant R. Gainsford, 30th Signal Regiment
Corporal R. Marshall, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron

The following have been awarded Corps Colours for 1969/70:

Captain J. J. Bally, 1st Division H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Sergeant G. D. Rookes, School of Signals
Sergeant D. Pilbeam, School of Signals
Signalman R. Davis, 30th Signal Regiment

Taken all round, this has been a very good season. Although the results of some Corps games were disappointing, the important thing is that more and more players are reaching Corps standard than ever before, no less than 36 players playing for the Corps. This, together with the achievements of 30th Signal Regiment, School of Signals, 7th and 8th Signal Regiments and Army Apprentices' College Harrogate, underlines the healthy state of rugger in the Corps.

In congratulating all those on or off the field who have helped to bring this about, special mention must be made of **Sergeant Cairns,** who gained his Army Cap playing against the Royal Navy at Twickenham. He was most unlucky to have been injured in this match.

The following account of rugby in Blandford, written by **Captain Bill Backhouse,** the Corps Captain, speaks for itself.

RUGBY FLOURISHES AT BLANDFORD

There can be few places in the Corps where rugby has a more enthusiastic following than at Blandford. The School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment each field a highly-successful side every Wednesday, and on Saturdays they combine to produce a team which has been unbeaten by the local civilian sides since September.

Royal Signals, Blandford

The Saturday side is run by **Major David Mitchell,** whilst **Captain Dai Rees** looks after the clubhouse side of the administration. The team is skippered by **Captain Bill Backhouse,** and they have produced a standard of rugby far above that of most of the local clubs. Since Christmas they have scored almost 200 points to only 20 against. The pack has been selected from **Sergeant 'Budd' Rogers, Lieutenant Clive Arthur, Corporal George Williams, W.O.II Ron Block, Sergeant Geoff Rookes, Sergeant Norman Pilbeam, Captain John Aimonds, Captain Roger Brookes, Corporal Geoff Barden, Lieutenant John Neeve, Lieutenant Rod Dransfield, Staff Sergeant Roy Stark, Sergeant Mel Crowe and Sergeant 'Herbie' Lewis.** The backs have been permed from **Sergeant 'Geordie' Gainsford, Captain Bill Backhouse, Captain Dick Baly, Captain Dai Rees, Captain Conrad Garton, Corporal John Vilday, Corporal David Arundal, Sergeant Gavin Spearpoint, Sergeant David Welch, Corporal Brian Black** and **Corporal Martin Davies.** In spite of this impressive list of names, we are always on the look-out for players, so if you are posted to the area, make your name with us.

Support for the Corps

Now that Blandford has become the base of Corps rugby, and all our home fixtures are played here, the support given by both the units in this camp has been especially welcome. The fact that over half the Corps side came from Blandford speaks not only for the players' ability, but more particularly for their keenness to play and for the support given by the School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment.

Referees

It would not be right to talk only of players when reviewing the rugby scene at Blandford. Our three referees, **Major Norman Merrifield, W.O.II (Y. of S.) 'Nick' Foster** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Dick Dyer** are all members of the local Dorset/Hants. Society, as well as being qualified Army referees. They have done us proud, turning out equally happily for minor games as well as for the more senior matches. Many thanks, gentlemen.

P.S.—**Captain Dai Rees** still maintains that the reason Ireland beat Wales was that there was an English referee!

I SQUADRON TEAM OF 9th SIGNAL REGIMENT WHICH WON THE ARMY (CYPRUS) MINOR UNIT FOOTBALL CUP 1970 FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING

Back row, left to right: Corporal Steve Watson, Lance-Corporal Tony Morris, Lance-Corporal Bob Watkins, Corporal Rocky Stone, Signalman Johnny Phillips, Private Chippy Wood and Corporal Tony Lowe

Front row, left to right: Corporal Davie Kelly, Staff-Sergeant Geordie Sleightholm, Corporal Pete Ellis, Corporal Trevor Ryan and Lance Corporal Davie Manders

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8th Regiment's outstanding Hockey Team

Their record this season is an outstanding one

Runners up—Army (U.K.) Hockey Tournament. They lost to S.E.M.E. Bordon 1-0
Winners —Northern Zone, Army (U.K.) Hockey Tournament
" —Northern Command Cup
" —Northumbrian District League
" —Northumbrian District Cup
" —Northumbrian District 6-a-side Competition

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Position
League Record:	14	13	1	0	74	5	1st
Cup Record:	5	4	0	1	9	3	

With largely the same team next year their eyes are on the Army Cup!

Individual Achievements

Corporal Havelin—selected to play for the Army in the B.A.O.R. festival

Lieutenant Reed, Sergeant Forster, Sergeant Hyde, Corporal M. How, Corporal Boardman, Corporal Havlin, Sergeant Morgan } **Have all been selected to represent the Corps in at least one match this season**

Back row, left to right: Corporal Kingdom, Staff-Sergeant Holdsworth, Corporal Boardman, Lance-Corporal Lilley, Sergeant Hyde, Lieutenant K. Hadfield, Sergeant Morgan, Staff-Sergeant Richardson, Captain J. Storr

Front row, left to right: Corporal How, Staff-Sergeant Gillmon, Corporal Havlin (Captain), Lieutenant D. Reed, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass, Sergeant Forster, Corporal South, Sergeant Neilson, Corporal Sidek. Absent: Corporal Butchers

8th Regiment's Soccer Team had a good season too

The season has ended with the Regiment having won the Northumbrian District Senior League.

In cup competition the nearest the team came to success was when finishing runners-up to 1st Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in the Command Cup. In the final at York the team did well to recover from an initial onslaught from the Fusiliers, being two goals down within the first ten minutes. Just before half-time we had drawn level at two each, in the end going down by the odd goal in five.

The manner in which the team got back into the game was yet again an example of **Corporal Maurice Nelson's** excellent captaincy. Both on and off the field he has been an example to all unit footballers at all levels. He will be sorely missed—our loss is 16th Signal Regiment's gain.

In the Signals Inter-Unit Competition the Regiment were beaten by 24th Signal Regiment by four goals to two.

The team has undoubtedly enjoyed their games this season, the fact that many more matches have been more closely contested than last year has undoubtedly helped in achieving this.

During the close season the annual Summer League will, it is hoped, discover a number of new players for next year. Amongst those who will be missed, in addition to **Corporal Maurice Nelson,** will be **Corporal 'Chalky' White** and **Lance-Corporal 'Shev' O'Shevire Mulday** from Nigeria. The latter's colourful personality and loyalty to the team have been of tremendous value.

By the time next season starts **Captain Jim Ireland,** the football officer, will also have departed to train for the Methodist Ministry.

In the past 18 months he has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the team and all the players who have played for him during this time would, it is felt, like to say thank you!

8TH REGIMENT'S RUGBY TEAM — WINNERS NORTHERN COMMAND CUP

Back row—Left to Right: Lieutenant D. Case, Signalman M. Wilson, Corporal J. Illingworth, Signalman B. Atkin, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Akass, Sergeant A. Dodd, Signalman F. Dewa, Corporal C. Abbot, Corporal S. Driea, W.O.I Cherry (Linesman)

Front row—Left to right: Corporal E. Tait, Sergeant C. Derbyshire, Lieutenant S. Coltman, Sergeant J. Maynard Lance-Corporal Deveraux, Corporal E. Hunter

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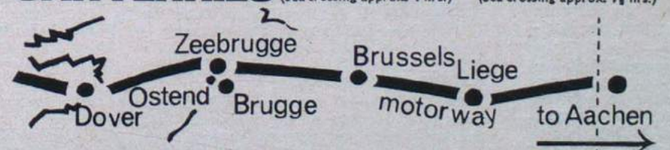

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3rd H.Q. & Signal Regiment take up the Gauntlet in

Ex Talons High

Written by W.O.II 'Wally' Wheeler of 3rd H.Q. and Signal Regiment

IN the last WIRE notes it was explained that a great deal of reorganisation was going on within the Regiment; we were rapidly manning our 'BRUIN' cloaks, whilst still maintaining, as a second priority, our strategic JFHQ role.

Many of us have been to B.A.O.R. as individuals and with the Regiment in the JFHQ task. This fact was not overlooked by the 'brass-hats' who threw us the following challenge. Could 3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment as a whole, move by land and sea to B.A.O.R. and fit, alongside the other Signal Regiments, in the BRUIN role.

The gauntlet had been thrown and was quickly taken up. Conference followed conference; paper instructions flowed from R.H.Q. like water from a tap, but after many headaches, the Regiment, along with elements from 5 Brigade, 19 Brigade and 14th Signal Regiment, split in two groups and headed for our first staging post, Colchester.

Here, the senior ranks had the facilities of the R.M.P. Mess, for which our grateful thanks are extended. The R.S.M., **W.O.I G. E. Morrill,** invited all the officers in for the evening. In the best traditions of the Service, thanks were tendered at about midnight, and apologies offered to the R.M.P. members, as we had drunk them dry.

The following morning, Group I set off for Harwich and boarded the civilian car ferry bound for Bremerhaven; Group II followed on 24 hours later, travelling to Hamburg. On arrival in B.A.O.R., the weather proved rather unkind and a change in plan had to be put into effect, and the start of the exercise had to be delayed for 24 hours, with the result that both groups eventually converged on Verden. At this point we must express our sincere thanks to 1 H.Q. and Signal Regiment for tolerating all our needs, feeds, accommodation, and especially our scrounging. However, the extra day at Verden gave time and opportunity to finalise many small details.

The frozen wastelands of the B.A.O.R. 'tundra'

Eventually the recce parties went out, and although the reports weren't too good, we started off into the frozen wastelands of the B.A.O.R. 'tundra' on 13th March. Rumour had it that our special Yeoman kept turning to Mecca and mumbling queer gutteral sounds. Surprisingly, it worked; the further south we got, the warmer it became. These Yeoman are few and far between, and another rumour is that our lucky charm is going to take the sun to 2nd Signal Regiment.

Main H.Q. eventually settled and spread its tentacles over three farms, moving into cowsheds, barns and ssh! . . . you know where. The poor chaps at the comcen were bedded down on top of a ridge in about 5ft. of snow. It's the first time in three years that the Regiment have had the facilities of barns, but we had no complaints. After three days the cows and pigs looked on us as brothers, we had begun to wear the same scent. But back to the job, the communications and radio nets were through in next to no time and, wonder of wonders, they remained through.

Life settled down to the C.O.'s conferences, the R.S.M.'s non-stop bark about camouflage and blackouts; the Adjutant (**Captain M. A. Thorne**) wishing for a barber, but the Regiment was doing its job.

Then came the first move. This is a little more difficult for us, compared with our B.A.O.R. counterparts, as was are not, as yet, fully vehicle-borne. We still have to rely on tents for some of our detachments. (The local farmers thought we were quite mad, putting tents in barns).

The first move was only a distance of about 20 km., but we are still trying to find out where the Messing Officer took the cooks. They eventually arrived after a journey of 2½ hours. **Sergeant Shanks,** A.C.C., was heard to mutter "we didn't even have haversack rations."

In a very short time, command was taken back from **Captain Peter Pritchard** and the merry men at Step-up. There had been no break in communications, the Regiment was working. In this location we had visits from the Commander 1 (BR) Corps, **Lieutenant-General J. M. T. Sharp, C.B., M.C.,** the Chief of Staff, **Brigadier J. M. Brockbank, M.C.,** and the C.C.R. Signals, **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt,** who were all very impressed with what was going on. When the Chief of Staff and C.C.R. Signals arrived by helicopter, they thought they had been given a wrong map reference, until the 'chopper' handler went into the open to guide them down; they afterwards admitted the camouflage was so good they couldn't see anything.

The C.O. was talking to this right hand

It was thought at one time that the pressure was getting the C.O. down. He kept walking about and talking to his right hand; he was given a very wide berth as it was thought it might be catching, but someone eventually realised he had brought his tape recorder. (All things bright and beautiful were recorded, and other verses of sharper vintage too).

In this location the R.S.M. really proved his worth; he produced a barber in the shape of **Sergeant 'Chippy' Woods,** and the Adjutant, after lots of 'wheedling,' finally had his locks trimmed. The C.O. politely declined an invitation to have his head 'manicured.'

Then a night move. Command was passed to Step-up. Due to positioning of the comcens, slight problems arose, but eventually the move took place and was completed as dawn was breaking.

Shadowy figures moved about and tended to drop out of sight. This was due to the location being in the middle of a quagmire, with mud more than a foot deep. Tents were erected again, however, hot tea was soon produced by the cooks and the Regiment was back in business. Communications were 'in' and the camming up was completed.

Smelling of 'eau-de-barnyard,' but a good job was done

Suddenly, the order came through on the 'printer,' "close down, exercise ends." No team at the Royal Tournament could have stripped the camouflage, packed the nets, wrapped up the kitchen and swept out the barns as quickly as it was done that day. In no time at all, the vehicles and trailers were loaded, sorted into packets and were ready to move. The Regiment was still "in action."

A few hours later we arived back at Verden, tired, weary, with a pleasant aroma of 'eau-de-barnyard' hanging over everyone, and satisfied we had done a good job.

Our return journey went without mishap; even the Customs men were on our side.

Over 150 vehicles and trailers had left Bulford on the 8th/9th March, and all arrived back in the same place, accident-free, 12 days later.

From the exercise we have seen we still have a few faults to correct, a few improvements to make, but we did the job.

3rd Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment had taken up the gauntlet, had moved, had operated, and returned home. We hand back the gauntlet, proud in the knowledge that the 'new boys' to BRUIN can hold their own with anyone.

Exercising in the Solomons

By Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Bill Donnelly

DURING March a detachment from 249 Signal Squadron (FARELF), led by **Captain Peter Burke,** left Singapore to exercise a D13 contingency station in the British Solomon Islands.

C.S.O.'s kit is lost

We left Changi airport by R.A.F. Hercules and flew, via Darwin, to Honiara on the island of Guadacanal. On arrival, our equipment and personal luggage were quickly unloaded, only to find that a suitcase belonging to **Brigadier Warren** (C.S.O., FARELF) had been left in Singapore. R.A.F. Movements personnel quickly vanished from the scene, and our attached R.A.F. liaison man, **Sergeant Graham Lechrie,** was seen to change into jungle green, complete with **Royal Signals** beret. Fortunately, the C.S.O., obviously having travelled R.A.F. before, had a spare uniform in his briefcase and eventually collected the remainder of his kit in Hong Kong during his round trip.

By this time our transport had arrived and we ferried our kit to a disused World War II airfield. Although it ran alongside the local golf course, the field was surrounded by 6ft. tall grass, **Sergeant John Hunt,** attached from 14th Signal Regiment, had already discovered that the grass was very sharp, he was heard to mumble something about lawnmowers being carried on D13 stations before he vanished with one end of the sloping Vee antenna.

Comfortable and good food

Under the direction of the O.C. and **W.O.I (F. of S.) Ernie Nugent** (commonly known as 'Dad') the station was quickly established and we then retired to our accommodation in the Government transit quarters. These are situated in the middle of Honiara and consist of six large rooms with attached kitchen, dining room and showers. Having carried our bedding rolls and mosquito nets, just in case, we were pleased to see such comfortable quarters provided, and quickly settled in for our stay. By this time our very able cook, **Private Jock Cormack,** was slaving over his hot stove under the eagle-eye of **Staff Sergeant Canale,** our 'housemother' for the month. By the end of the exercise, it was an effort to eat any more foot-long steaks or rainbow trout and duck, with orange sauce. Our thanks to the A.C.C. for training Jock so well.

Many local friends

During the following weeks the island was quickly explored by the fact-finding members of the detachment, namely **Lance-Corporal Stuart Hawey, Signalman Bernie Commins** and **Craftsman John Young.** It was discovered that the natives were very friendly, and they invited us to attend one of their dances. The music was provided by men hitting bamboo with flip-flops, which made a sound that any pop-group would envy. Many friends were made among the local people on the island, but there is no truth in the rumour that **Sergeant Dave Hope** presented his girlfriend with a Royal Signals plaque before leaving.

Football and skin-diving

During our stay, **Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Snaith** undertook to arrange a football match against the local team. Eleven of our detachment elected to play and turned out in all sorts of different strips, to play an immaculately turned-out opposing team. We will say that 'clothes do not a team make,' but despite the magnificent goalkeeping of **Signalman Grif Griffin** (in knee-length shorts) we lost 3—1. **Craftsman John Young** was also invited to attend a skin-diving expedition to explore sunken Japanese ships in the bay. As he is a keen skin-diving enthusiast this offer was gratefully received, and I believe he spent a pleasant day exploring. Shell collecting also became a pastime with some of the detachment, and **Sergeant 'Chappie' Chapman** quickly became an expert.

Some 30 miles away, at Tambia, an English couple from Bristol are building a beach resort. Having borrowed a car, **Lance-Corporal Dave Miles, Lance-Corporal Garry Garrigan, Signalman Les Harrison** and **Signalman Gray Probert** set off to explore. The resort is in an ideal setting of sandy beaches and palm trees and looks like something out of a 'Bounty Bar' advert. The first thing that came to notice was that the tables and seats outside were made of solid concrete, and when asked why this was, the couple told us that the local villagers tended to throw things around after a few beers (which were served in paper cups). Most of us managed to visit this resort, and even though the road to it was very rocky and crossed in several places by rivers, it was well worth the effort.

Quite a job getting back

Having spent a month on the island, it was time for us to return to Singapore. Our two R.A.F. Hercules arrived and one of these made an uneventful trip back, via Darwin. The other one, however, was having trouble with the navigation equipment and we waited patiently for the weather to clear for our flight. Some three hours later we said our farewells and taxied out to the runway, only to find that the rear loading door would not close properly; the flight was then postponed until the following day, and we returned to Honiara and spent the night in a hotel. The following day we again boarded the aircraft (the rear door was now being held closed with a chain). This time we took off and headed for Darwin. Unfortunately, the weather closed in again and we were forced to land in New Guinea. By this time the plane was deemed unserviceable and we were informed that a second plane was flying out from Changi. After spending a pleasant night in a hotel, we waited for the second plane to arrive. Sure enough, it was dead on time, but as it landed a tyre burst and we were stuck again. By four o'clock that day we were all slightly fed-up, when we were told that our original plane would fly us to Darwin. This leg went off alright and we arrived in Darwin at 8 o'clock that night fully expecting that we would be home the next day. But again flight 213 was struck by bad luck. Whilst taxi-ing out to the runway, the following day, the rudder broke and we spent another night in the not-too-lively city of Darwin, while a third plane flew out from Changi. This time our luck was in and the plane arrived in one piece. We arrived at Changi three days late, but very glad to be on 'terra firma' again, for a while.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: **Mr. D. Smith,** 9, Castilian Street, Northampton.

A curry supper and social evening was held at the Northampton Branch on 30th April. Our meetings are held the last Thursday in the month at the Sergeants' Mess, Drill Hall, Northampton. Why not join us and laugh? Our Secretary is **Douglas Smith,** late 12 Corps and 1 Corps, 1942-45; his last posting was Iserlohn. Our Treasurer is **Geoffrey D. Addington,** who was with the 47 Mobile A.A.O.R. in Egypt, Sicily and Italy between 1940-47. Our Chairman, **Leutenant-Colonel S. Brock,** has been very ill in hospital, but we are delighted to report that he is now recovering.

DORSET BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: **Mr. S. Henwood,** H.Q., Blandford Station, Blandford Camp.

Perhaps history wasn't made, but we believe it was a unique occasion for the President, Chairman and General Secretary of the Association to be present together at a branch dinner. The occasion was the Dorset Branch annual dinner last year, and Chairman **Bob Simpson** took the opportunity to press for a Blandford reunion, as he believed that Blandford would eventually become, to today's serving members what Catterick is to the older generation.

We will be taking a full part in the Blandford reunion in June and some account of our branch may be of interest.

Last June we ran a fete and barbecue in the grounds of **Major Pat Malin's** house at Puddletown. The main event was a tug-of-war through a stream, the losing team having to concede defeat by going through the stream to the winner's side. A 40lb. lamb was spit-roasted, the first slice being sold by the chairming **Miss Anne Hughes,** who was reigning 'Miss Southern Television' at the time. We appreciate the enormous support we had from the School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment, who laid on three coaches for members and their families to come along. It was a glorious summer's evening, so that the weather, combined with the numbers, rather strained our refreshment facilities, which was the only thing to mar a very good evening out. Various sideshows were run by the members to add to the entertainment.

Blandford Camp always kindly invite our members to their Remembrance Day Service and our Branch Standard is on parade there. Last year, also, for the first time, our Branch Standard was present at the British Legion Service and parade in Blandford.

In February of this year we held a very enjoyable skittles evening at the Springhead Hotel at Sutton Poyntz, near Weymouth. The local team won, but we didn't disgrace ourselves.

Our third annual dinner, a most memorable occasion, when eighty members and their guests sat down, was held in the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess, School of Signals, by courtesy of **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** Commandant, on Friday, 24th April, and who also, with **Mrs. Cubberley,** were our main guests. **Mr.** and **Mrs. Arthur Hambleton** were unable to attend owing to a tragic domestic circumstance. Among our other guests were **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. I. M. Rose** (C.O., 30th Signal Regiment), **Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins** (C.O., School Regiment), **Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. Goldsmith, R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Raynor.** The dinner was a wonderful occasion. Naturally, **Major-General R. J. Moberly** was the host.

Monthly meetings are held in different places, so that sooner or later a meeting comes near to all parts of the county, and **Sam Henwood,** our Secretary, will be pleased to furnish details.

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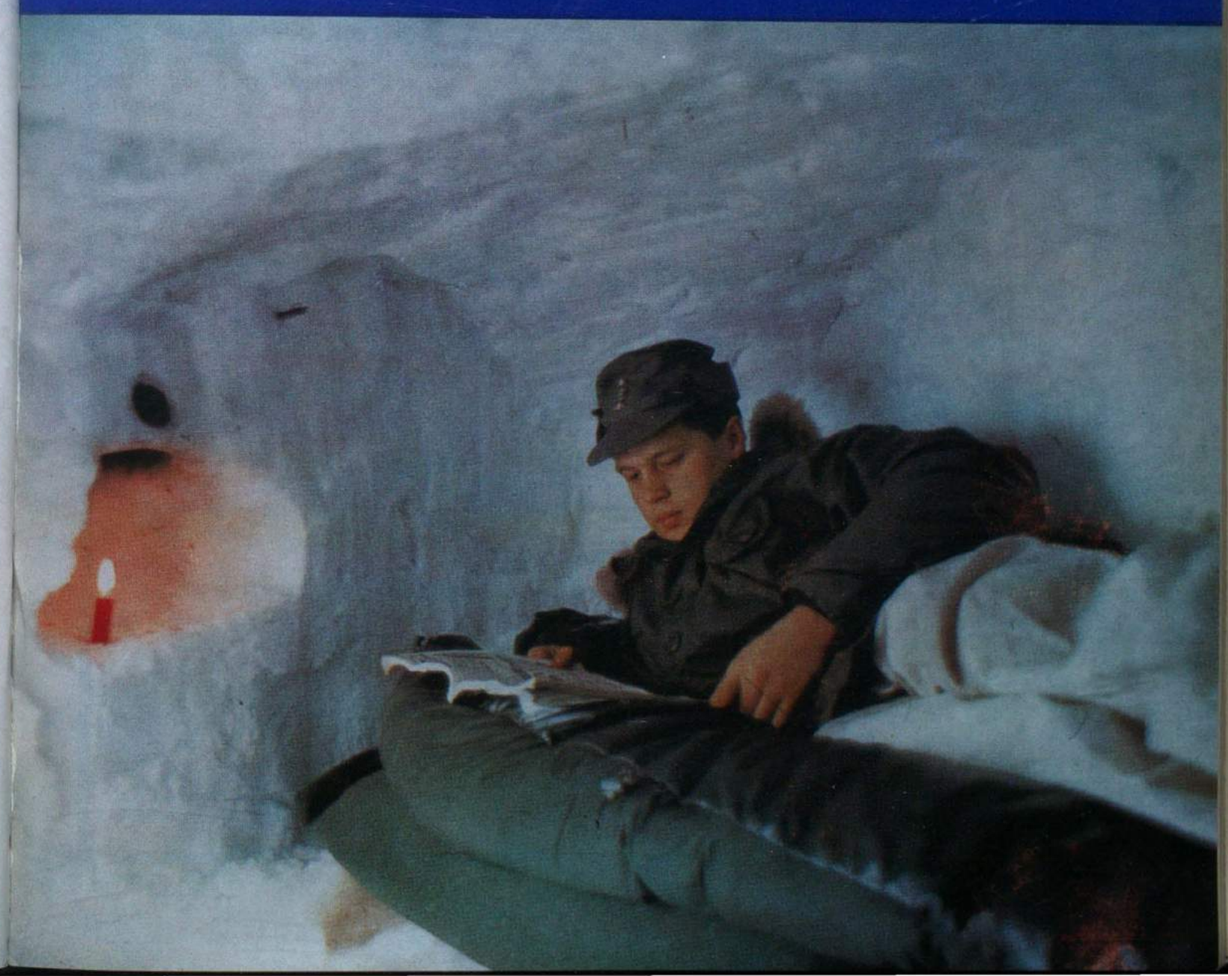
July-August 1970

THE

wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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☆

JULY/AUGUST • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 7**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

By kind permission of the Editor of *Soldier* we are able to reproduce this unusual 'shot' taken in an eight-foot by four-foot snow hole by photographer **Trevor Jones** of *Soldier* staff. The occupant of the snow hole is **Corporal Robert Crowther** who spent half-a-day digging this shelter in which to spend the night while on exercise with the Mobile Force Radio Troop of 30th Signal Regiment (O.C. **Captain Ian Crouch**). The exercise was featured in the May issue of *Soldier* under the title 'Mercury in Mukluks' and no doubt many of our readers will already have read the story. Suffice to say that our own M.F. Radio Troop had taken over the responsibility for communications from a U.S. Signal Squadron for the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force on winter exercise in Norway. This they had done after a month's winter warfare course in Norway and two weeks' familiarisation training with the U.S. Army near Nuremberg.

Despite many problems including a rebro station being partially put out of action by a force 5 blizzard, they produced satisfactory communications and were commended by the Mobile Forces' C.S.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Salvatore Nicosia,** who said the results achieved were very good indeed.

The situation whereby more contributions come in for THE WIRE than there is really space for is one of our major problems—albeit a happy one!

There can be no sadder person that an Editor waiting in vain for the incoming post to produce copy to fill an empty publication.

Our incoming post, thanks to our many hard-working and loyal correspondents, is very much the opposite. Contributions flow in freely and we are indeed most grateful to receive them. However, almost invariably, when all copy has been returned in galley form from the printers and we measure it prior to 'paste-up' it comes to light that we are faced with going to press with more pages than we can economically afford to print. We are then confronted with the unhappy position of having to prune contributions or possibly hold over certain general interest articles to a subsequent issue hoping to get them in then. This is an invidious and unpleasant task for any Editor to undertake, particularly one who is so well served by his readers.

We are acutely conscious that behind every article lies the work of some unknown individual who has given considerable time and effort to try and produce something worthy of THE WIRE.

This situation has been somewhat mitigated by a helpful decision by the Central Committee of the Association to underwrite the cost of publishing certain general interest articles—and, incidentally, the expensive colour pictures on the front cover. Nevertheless, the problem is very much with us.

The purpose of this Editorial is to make these facts clear and to apologise to all those who may find their contributions pruned or held over for a subsequent issue of THE WIRE. As the saying goes, to understand is to forgive, and we know how indulgent you invariably are to our shortcomings.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne visits the Corps at Blandford Camp

[*Courtesy Bournemouth Evening Echo*

A HAPPY MOMENT DURING THE VISIT
The Princess talking to Corporal and Mrs. P. S. Shotts, Corporal and Mrs. A. G. Taylor on the left

Arrival

H.R.H. **The Princess Anne** visited the Corps at Blandford Camp on Friday, 5th June. Just after 10.45 a.m. a red-painted Wessex of the Queen's flight touched down on a special Helipad at Engineers Corner prepared by 30th Signal Regiment. There, accompanied by her lady-in-waiting, **Miss Mary Dawnay, H.R.H.** was received by **Brigadier A. D. Brindley, M.B.E., A.D.C.,** accompanied by her Conducting Officer, **Major M. S. Jarrett,** Royal Signals, and A.D.C. **Lieutenant M. C. Wilkinson,** Royal Signals.

From the Helipad she was driven by car to the Headquarters Mess where, after being received by the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** she met **Lady Scott,** the S.O.-in-C. **Maior-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Pentreath,** the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Major-General M. D. Price, O.B.E.,** and **Mrs. Price,** the Commandant, School of Signals, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** and **Mrs. Cubberley,** and the Chief Signal Officer, Strategic Command, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.**

A plaque unveiled

After coffee at the Headquarters Mess the **Princess** was taken by car to the Royal Signals Museum, where she was received by the Chairman of the Royal Signals Institution, **Brigadier T. R. Warburg, C.B.E.** After presenting **Mr. W. F. Bailey,** the Curator of the Museum, **Brigadier Warburg** conducted **H.R.H.** around the Museum and briefed her on the history of military communications and Royal Signals. The **Princess** showed considerable interest and knowledge. At 11.30 a.m. the Master of Signals invited **H.R.H.** to unveil a plaque commemorating her visit. This she did amidst the clicking of many cameras, from the press and from the School of Signals Film Unit. The School of Signals C.C.T.V. Unit was also busy.

Equipment on display and demonstrations

From the Museum the **Princess** was conducted by **Brigadier Cubberley** to a demonstration of modern signal equipment. **Captain C. T. Garton,** School of Signals, explained, with the aid of a model, the Bruin Communications System. **H.R.H.** showed great interest in the various equipments and vehicles. **Corporal R. A. Martin,** School of Signals, explained the FV 432 Command Post and a detachment from 264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron looked suitably warlike. Even more warlike was a demonstration of unarmed combat by men from 216 Para Signal Squadron under the direction of **Corporal R. A. Hogg,** then while **S.S.M. I. Wells** explained the techniques to the Royal visitor, the team made short work of unlashing a Land Rover from a medium stress air drop platform. **H.R.H.** then moved on to 3 Squadron, 30th Signal Regiment, who managed to look cool in their snow parkas in spite of the warm weather. **Captain I. J. Crouch** led the **Princess** down a line of arctic equipment to a waiting Snocat of A.M.F.(L) Battalion Troop. Assisted by **Second-Lieutenant J. Dyer,** W.R.A.C., she donned a white smock and, with brief explanation of the controls by **Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes,** she drove the 4-ton tracked vehicle across the grass through a maze of aerial masts with the competence of a born driver.

At the E21 Receiver Station **H.R.H.** was met by **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.,** and conducted round by **Captain J. R. S. Ovenden,** of 14th Signal Regiment. There she received a greetings telegram from **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** Commander 3 Signal Group, and all ranks Royal Signals in Cyprus, which she was kind enough to sign.

Conversation via satellite

By way of contrast the U.K.-T.S.C. 500 mobile satellite earth station may have made the E21 seem more 'steam age' than is the case. **Captain P. J. Brunton** was able to invite the **Princess** to speak to **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** C.S.O. FARELF, via the Skynet Satellite and also to receive by teleprinter a message of greetings from the C.S.O. and all the various Commonwealth Signals serving in Malaysia and Singapore.

Photographed during the Royal Visit

1. Her Royal Highness pictured on her arrival when she was met by Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., Master of Signals.
2. The Princess pauses for an informal chat with Corporal R. A. Hogg and S.S.M. I. Wells of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron.
3. There was a cheerful welcome from children of the Camp School for the Princess as she passed by.
4. The Princess has a talk with the White Helmets who put on an impressive display.

At the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess

From the Satellite Station **H.R.H.** moved by car to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. There, after being received by the R.S.M. of the School of Signals, **W.O.I S. J. Raynor,** she met **Mrs. Raynor, W.O.I T. Burke** (R.S.M. 30th Signal Regiment) and **Mrs. Burke.** She spent some 25 minutes at the Mess, during which time the Commanding Officer of 30th Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose,** and **Mrs. Rose** were presented to her, together with some of the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of the station and their wives.

Figurine and 'Through to 1970' presented

After refreshment, **Princess Anne** was taken by car back to the Headquarters Mess where she had presented to her a number of officers and their wives. She afterwards took lunch with the Master of Signals and some of the company. Before leaving the Mess she was presented with a Trumpeter Figurine and a copy of 'Through to 1970.'

Afternoon display

For the afternoon display, the area adjacent to H.Q. Mess had been transformed for the occasion into an arena with a specially constructed Royal box. Seats round the ground were filled by spectators from the camp and a large contingent of school children from the Garrison School complete with Union Jacks. The Corps Band, under the direction of **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** played appropriate music.

At 14.35 the **Princess** left H.Q. Mess and walked to the arena. On the way she was warmly cheered by the school children and stopped and spoke to many of them. She also spoke to several soldier spectators and their wives.

Promptly at 14.50 the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team began their show, which they performed faultlessly despite the strong wind. The **Princess** was obviously impressed by the split-second precision of the crossing motor cyclists

and amused at the antics of the old-time rider of the mechanical penny farthing. The large audience, too, many of whom had seen the display team many times before, clearly appreciated the skill and daring of the riders.

Farewell

All too soon came the finale and with it the end of the Royal visit. Before leaving, the **Princess** spent some time chatting to members of the team, then said goodbye to the Master of Signals and got into her car. The car drove round the arena amidst cheers and waving hands of spectators and, with the Corps Band playing 'Will ye no come back again' (almost drowned by the motor cycle escort) she left the arena to return to her helicopter.

Brigadier Brindley and **Major Jarrett** escorted the **Princess** and her lady-in-waiting to the Helipad, and at 15.30 saw them safely on their way back to London.

The visit was favoured by warm sunny weather and received good coverage from local press and television. It was without doubt a most successful and happy occasion, enjoyed by all including, we are sure, our Royal visitor.

Behind the scenes

The organisation and preparation necessary to achieve such a successful occasion involved, as can be imagined, a great deal of effort and several rehearsals. Practically every soldier and civilian in Blandford Camp, both from the School of Signals and 30th Signal Regiment (not to mention such peripheral organisations as the Blandford Project Liaison Staff, M.P.B.W., etc.) had a hand in it.

The problems which arise on such an occasion are many and varied: which way will the wind blow? The Royal Standard on the U.H.F. tower needed an east wind to avoid a tangle—the wind was easterly. How do you ensure that the white smock H.R.H. is to wear will fit? The Palace obliged with a fitting. How do you remove grass cuttings from the Helipad? Answer—get a helicopter to blow them away by hovering. And so on . . .

Blandford Camp never looked so smart—even the Contractors engaged on the rebuild had cleared up most of the more obvious mess. We cannot claim to control the weather—it played the most important part of all—a fair day for a fair lady in fact. We hope she will come again soon.

Commemorative telegrams sent by C.S.O. FARELF and Commander 3rd Signal Group by satellite and E21 radio respectively and personally signed by The Princess

FROM CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER FARELF SINGAPORE

TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE AT BLANDFORD CAMP

BRIGADIER D. E. WARREN AND ALL RANKS ROYAL SIGNALS, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND SIGNALS, GURKHA SIGNALS, LOCALLY ENLISTED MEMBERS OF ROYAL SIGNALS IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE SEND THEIR LOYAL GREETINGS TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ANNE ON THE OCCASION OF HER VISIT TO ROYAL SIGNALS AT BLANDFORD CAMP. IN SENDING THESE LOYAL GREETINGS WE ARE JOINED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL OF THE FAR EAST AIR FORCE WHO MAN THE SINGAPORE END OF THIS SATELLITE LINK.

TRANSMITTED BY SATELLITE SYSTEM 5 JUNE 1970.

Anne

BLANDFORD CAMP **5th. JUNE 1970**

FROM COMMANDER 3RD SIGNAL GROUP CYPRUS

TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ANNE AT BLANDFORD CAMP

COLONEL D L SYLVESTER-BRADLEY AND ALL RANKS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS IN CYPRUS SEND THEIR LOYAL GREETINGS TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE ON THE OCCASION OF HER VISIT TO ROYAL SIGNALS AT BLANDFORD CAMP.

TRANSMITTED BY E 21 HF RADIO 5 JUNE 1970

Anne

BLANDFORD CAMP **5th. JUNE 1970**

STOP PRESS

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Service of Re-Dedication at Salisbury Cathedral and Open Day, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, 21st June

All will be very pleased to hear that this occasion, in glorious sunny weather, went off extremely well, and has been described by a number of those present as the finest day in the history of the Corps!

Catterick Reunion Weekend 27th/28th June

This occasion was also a resounding success, with a record attendance by Old Comrades of the Corps—nearly 500 marching to Church on the Sunday, and several thousand attending the Sunday afternoon displays.

Full descriptions of these events will appear in the next issue of 'The Wire.'

SECOND REUNION OF THE HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY

Seated, left to right: **W. Bevan, J. Whitehead, H. Liley, Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins, A. Ient, Major (Retd.) G. C. Hamilton, Brigadier J. R. Cubberley, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) E. Levett, Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) 'Monty' Truscott, R.S.M. S. J. Raynor, Major (Retd.) D. C. Dickens, J. Hogan, A. Swaine, Lieutenant (Retd.) C. A. Langley, H. Bates**

Centre Row, left to right: **E. Hutchison, H. Copsey, Major (Retd.) F. Ashford, Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) A. F. Austen, G. Stanford, D. Howell, F. C. Latter, W. McCormick, A. Binningsley, G. Carroll, Captain (Retd.) J. Dignan, F. Bennett, D. Honeybourne, K. Love, D. Harrison, M. Skinner**

Back Row, left to right: **F. S. Watkins, G. T. Busby, N. Lester, P. Moddrell, R. Hood, L. Parry, H. E. Roelich, W. Devlin, M. Fraser, T. Mellor, Major R. Amott, W. Holland, R. Cogbill**

Hong Kong Signal Company 1939-45

Lieutenant-Colonel 'Monty' Truscott, Secretary, writes:

The second Reunion of the ill-fated Hong Kong Signal Company was held at the School of Signals on 9th May. **Major (retd.) G. C. Hamilton,** author of 'The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru,' was the chief guest. Other guests included **Brigadier J. R. Cubber'ey,** Commandant School of Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. E. Higgins,** Administrative Commandant, O.C. School Regiment, and **R.S.M. S. J. Raynor** of the School who very kindly made the facilities of his Mess available to the Reunion.

Major G. C. Hamilton was one of three officers who engineered the break-out from the locked hold of the Japanese P.o.W. ship *Lisbon Maru* which had been torpedoed by the U.S.S. *Grouper*, an American submarine. The Hong Kong Signal Company were among 1,800 British P.o.W.s in the sinking ship of which over 1,100 were drowned, 51 members of the Company were drowned out of 100 in this appalling tragedy, a further 19 members died in P.o.W. cages in Japan due to exposure and sickness resulting from the sinking. Only half of the Company strength was on board the ill-fated vessel.

The first Reunion in May, 1969, located 35 survivors, six additional survivors were located for this Reunion, the search for the balance of 45 will never cease. It is possible that relatives or friends of readers were in the Company during 1939-45, if so please notify the writer.

The Chairman, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. Levett** (ex-C.S.O. China Command) was present as one of the survivors; he is now 86 and was unfortunately a P.o.W. of World Wars I and II. Those present were delighted to see him again and wished their very popular ex-Commanding Officer many happy years to come.

The Committee thanks **Brigadier Cubberley** and **R.S.M.** Raynor for their kindness and co-operation in making this Reunion so successful.

Plans are being made to hold the third Reunion in Catterick at the 1971 Old Comrades' Reunion.

Birthday Honours

All will be pleased to hear that the following awards were made to members of the Corps in the Birthday Honours:

C.B.

Major-General M. D. Price, O.B.E.

O.B.E.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Dacre, M.B.E.
Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart
Lieutenant-Colonel E. J. Hellier, M.B.E.

M.B.E.

Major (Q.M.) T. H. Luscombe (retd.).
W.O.II T. McK. Stoddard.

B.E.M.

Sergeant Ramparsad Gurung (248 Gurkha Signal Squadron)
Staff Sergeant S. H. Waudby.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
19th Signal Regiment	200	0	0
18th Signal Regiment	68	0	6
H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps, for the Garrison Church of St. George	44	16	6
14th Signal Regiment	41	4	8
43 (Wessex) Signal Squadron	12	6	
Bath & District Branch, Royal Signals Association	5	5	0
Mr. K. V. Ashton	46	0	0
Captain A. C. M. Prince	6	5	3
Colonel A. J. G. McNair	5	0	0
Mr. T. W. Vigers	2	2	0
Mr. I. Proctor	10	0	
Mr. J. O. Buchanan	10	0	
Various individual donations	13	0	
Total	£420	19	5
Expenditure during May, 1970	£853	14	11

M.E.L. keeps you one step ahead in Military Electronics...

in Military Radio for example.

M.E.L. specialise in the production of Military telecommunications equipment, their principal contribution lying in the H.F. range with special emphasis on mobile and transportable tactical equipment.

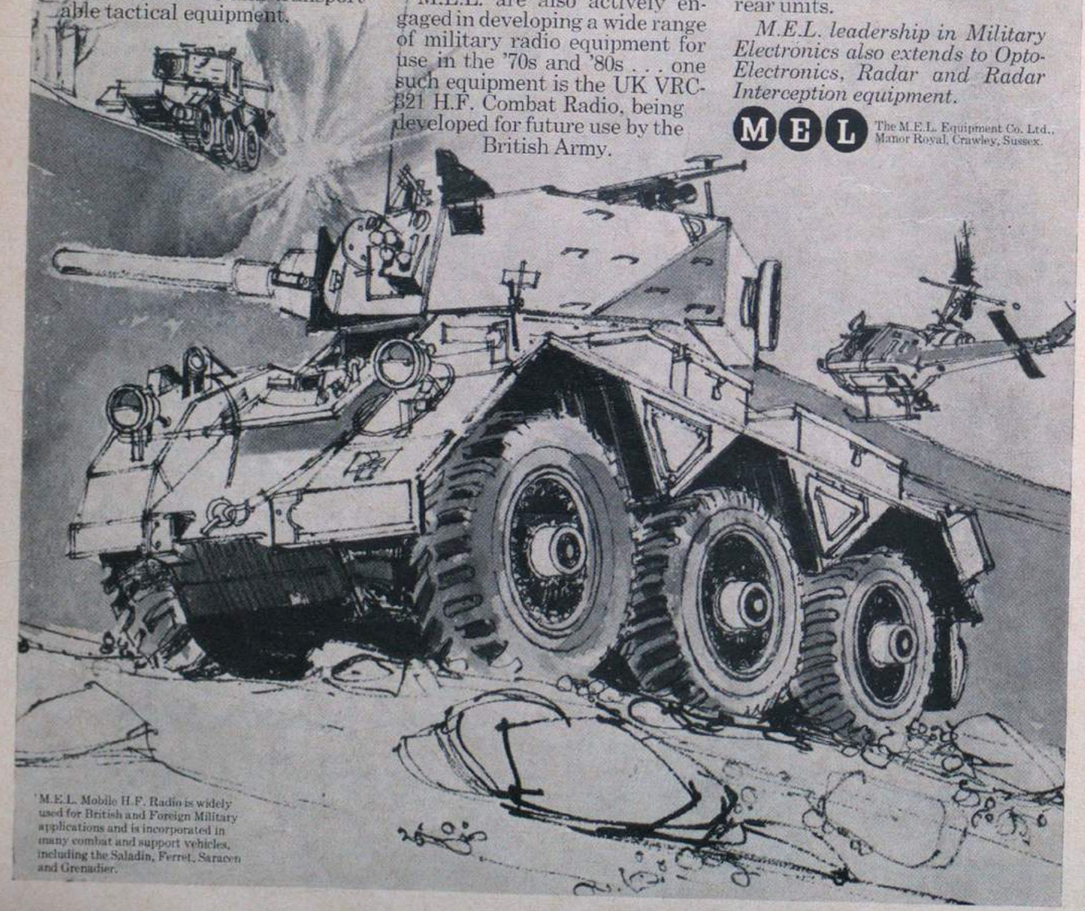
Currently produced sets such as the C11, C11(SSB), and radio telegraph adaptor equipment are in constant use in many countries throughout the world.

M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

This equipment is designed specifically for tactical roles, in combat and signals vehicles, and for transportable command stations for forward and rear units.

M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Opto-Electronics, Radar and Radar Interception equipment.

M E L The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.



M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

From our "In" Tray

The Gurkha Welfare Appeal

From:

Field Marshal Lord Harding, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Sir,

May I claim the courtesy of your columns to draw the attention of your readers to the National Appeal for the Gurkha Welfare Trust, and to ask for their support.

The Army Benevolent Fund has made a generous contribution to the Appeal on behalf of all Regimental and Corps Associations, but I thought that as many of your readers will have happy recollections of contacts with Gurkha soldiers they may like to subscribe individually—hence this letter.

The Gurkhas are our oldest and staunchest allies and have served with us for over 150 years. Nearly half a million Gurkhas fought side by side with British troops in the two World Wars winning 26 Victoria Crosses and suffering 43,000 casualties. By their courage and endurance they have made a magnificent contribution to the success of British arms. Their good comradeship has always been a source of strength to our own soldiers. I believe that everyone in this country owes them a great debt for their loyal and devoted service in numerous campaigns over many years.

When a Gurkha leaves the British service, he faces a difficult future in Nepal, a country with limited resources and a basic industry of subsistence level agriculture, subject to frequent natural disasters—floods and landslides. They and those who depend upon them are frequently in need of financial support to restart their life as civilians, to tide over a period of illness or other misfortune, to relieve poverty, suffering or distress.

H.M. Government provide an annual grant to meet the overheads of the Welfare Scheme, but a capital sum of £1,000,000 is needed to provide in perpetuity an income sufficient to meet the many deserving cases that will increasingly arise as the run-down of the Brigade proceeds. Every penny received will be devoted directly to this end.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, 25/31, Moorgate, London, E.C.2.

Yours sincerely,

Harding, Field Marshal.

19th SIGNAL REGIMENT—INFORMATION SOUGHT

Sir,

In anticipation of the disbandment of my Regiment in late 1971, I have been carrying out some research into the Regimental history. We have a comprehensive coverage for the period 1960 to the present day, but there is virtually nothing for the previous 18 years, from the formation of the Regiment in 1942 until 1960.

May I appeal, through the medium of THE WIRE for any information from past members of 19th Signal Regiment, to be sent to me.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. Gilbert, Lieutenant-Colonel.

19th Signal Regiment,
Changi, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

MR. AND MRS. J. FIRMIN write.—We would like to offer our sincere apologies for not keeping in touch with our many friends, both in the Corps and attached to it. However, the pressure of work is now relaxed, but after six months, some of you will have moved around the world. We now have a 'fixed abode' and would be pleased to hear from or, even better, see anyone who remembers us, especially from the Sergeants' Mess, 16th Signal Regiment. Good luck to you all.

John and **Pat Firman,** Royal George, Carlisle Lane, London, S.E.1 (five minutes from Waterloo Station and U.J. Club).

JOHN BALMER MEMORIAL FUND

The following letter has been received from **Mrs. Balmer** by the School of Signals:

"Thank you very much indeed for the cheque for £100 for Cancer Research, from my late husband's friends. **Mr. Cooper** gave it to me yesterday. It is a wonderful gesture from you all, and I know that it will do some good towards fighting this deadly disease. I have asked the Chairman of our Broadstone Luncheon Club to hand it over to **Dr. Marlborough** at Poole Hospital—his work for his cancer patients is outstanding. Thank you all again very much.

Yours sincerely,

Constance B. Palmer

Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society

The Society will be exhibiting at this year's R.S.G.B. International Radio Engineering and Communications Exhibition, which will be held from 19th to 22nd August, 1970, in the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Exhibition Hall on Saturday, 22nd August. Full details are being published in the next edition of *Mercury*, which will be issued shortly.

We look forward to seeing our members at both the Exhibition and the A.G.M.

ENCOUNTER AT A FOOTBALL MATCH

Mr. G. C. Cockrill, of 37 Alder Hill Grove, Leeds, writes that recently when refereeing a soccer match between the East and West Riding Cadet Forces, he came across **Major Dickie Dirs** who was the East Riding team manager.

Such was **Major Dirs'** energy in urging on his team, that **Mr. Cockrill** wondered whether **Sir Alf** knew of his contemporary and whether any of **Major Dirs'** protégés would be playing in the 1978 world cup series.

He concludes by saying that it was a pleasure to see a crusty old Corps character still in good form as an Old Comrade.

A CHALLENGE TO EX-BOYS!

Is there any ex-Boy (ex-'Rat' to use the older term) who is prepared to take on the necessary secretarial duties to keep the Ex-Boys' Association going—particularly in respect of running the annual dinner.

This will call for the maintenance of a record of the names of ex-Boys and their addresses and the organisation of the annual dinner. Access to office facilities and a reasonable length of tenure of appointment are desirable.

Surely, reading this, there must be one ex-Boy who is prepared to take it on?

Further particulars from: **Colonel T. W. B. Boileau, O.B.E.,** 'Coppins,' 8 Longmead, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants.

BIRTH

To **Beryl Shirley,** wife of **Captain (T.O.T.) A. Gent**—a daughter, Diane Heather, at the Forest Gate Hospital, London.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY OF THE WIRE?

HOME OWNERSHIP

Widespread publicity has been given to the acute shortage of funds for house purchase loans, and **would-be** HOME OWNERS who did not make positive plans well ahead found it almost impossible to obtain loans or even the promise of loans.

If you **take our advice** this should place you in the very favourable position of being able to **obtain a loan** for house purchase **at any time** in the future. We cannot overstress how vitally important it is for anyone considering house purchase, whether it is in the early future or some years ahead, to set in motion a positive but flexible House Purchase Plan as far in advance as possible of the intended purchase date. The earlier you start, the easier it becomes for you **to buy the house of your choice.** Moreover, the longer the Plan is in force the higher the loan possible, and the more economic the purchase.

Increases in quartering charges have made it financially beneficial for the majority of serving personnel to buy their own house, instead of paying rent for many years. Therefore, no matter where you are stationed, no matter when you intend to purchase a house, DO NOT WAIT until you are forced to buy your house in order to provide a Home for your family, ASK OUR ADVICE NOW.

SCHOOL FEES

In spite of the adverse effect of recent Finance Acts **selected** life assurance schemes can still substantially reduce the costs of educating children. A UNIQUE scheme provides **IMMEDIATE** funds for school fees where children are attending or about to attend school. We also devise specially tailored Plans which can reduce by one half **FUTURE** costs of educating your children. Very early planning can reduce such cost to nil.

LIFE ASSURANCE + INVESTMENT

Conventional or Equity Linked Schemes

We specialise in arranging Life Assurance Plans to provide all-embracing Family Security combined with Sound Investment. For example, a net outlay of **£12.10.6 monthly** for those liable to tax at 8/3 in the £ **will give** the family man aged 30 next **immediate family protection** of **£39,360** and an anticipated **cash** sum of **£35,000** free of tax and capital gains tax at age 65.

We can arrange equally attractive Plans where the **accent** is required to be **on investment.** Endowment assurances on a with profit basis and/or linked with unit trust investments in the equity or property market can produce a highly satisfactory tax-free appreciation of capital. Each Plan incorporates full life cover but, more important, is the part it can play in **providing you financial security in retirement.**

For full details, please telephone or write in confidence to:

Lieutenant-Colonel C. B. Johns, M.A.I.B., R.A.O.C. (Retd.),
Services Advisory Bureau Manager.

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Telephone: Reading 56226 and 56227

Jets told "Keep away" as White Helmets go into action

The sky above Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow—the home of 10th Signal Regiment—for an hour at least, became strangely quiet. Residents in the area, used to the roar and rattle of jets in and out of London Airport every few minutes, looked skywards and asked "What's happened?"

What had happened, in fact, was that the Royal Signals Display Team was giving a performance in the camp—and a little bit of quietness was needed, both from the point of view of the White Helmets and from an enjoyment point of view from the audience.

So, before the event, telephone bells started to tinkle. Could the Board of Trade help? "Well, we will certainly try—anything to help the White Helmets." And this is just what they did. By using different runways at London Airport a number of the trans-continental jets were diverted to miss passing over the barracks—and the only engines roaring were those of the machines of the White Helmets. And they got an enthusiastic response from the audience.

A pity it was only for an hour.

Talent Brokers Ltd., Personnel Consultants, are seeking a Military Sales Executive. A salary between £2,500-£3,000, which is negotiable, is offered. Anyone interested in this post should be between 35-45 years of age and should hold an engineering degree or its Service equivalent, and should be familiar with the various Army Departments dealing with electronic equipment. The address of Talent Brokers Ltd., is 20, Maddox Street, London, WIR 9PG.

Obituary

BRIGADIER R. A. C. HENDERSON, M.C.

Ralph Henderson, who died on 10th May, was born in 1891. He was educated at Wellington and Sandhurst, being commissioned into the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in 1911. In India when the war broke out he did not reach France until December. After being wounded he joined the S.S.T.C. in 1915.

He was seconded to R.E. Signals in 1916 and served in Salonika at first in G.H.Q. Signals. Later he was to command both 26 and 28 Divisional Signals and an L. of C. Signals. He finished the war in Constantinople and was still there when he transferred to the Corps. He won the M.C. and was mentioned in despatches.

From 1923-26 he served in 'A' Corps Signals at Maresfield, and in Eastern Command Signals from 1927-31 he commanded Kohat District Signals during the Afridi operations and then moved to Poona as C.S.O. He returned to England in 1932 as Commanding Officer of 4th Divisional Signals until 1935 when he went on half pay. In 1940 he returned as Commandant No. 1 S.T.C. His last appointment from 1942-44 was that of President of War Office Selection Board.

Ralph Henderson was always keen on games and was for many years a member of the M.C.C. Our deep sympathy is extended to his son and daughter.

W.O.II LESLIE SWINSON, M.S.M.

W.O.II Swinson, who has died at the age of 66, served 37 years in the Corps. He spent some time in India prior to the war and was later on the staff of Mons O.C.S. His final posting was to 19 Air Formation Signal Regiment in Singapore, where he served for three years.

MAJOR E. J. WYETH

Major E. J. Wyeth, who died on 17th May, at the age of 71, enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment in 1916 and was demobilised in 1919. Almost immediately he enlisted in R.E. Signals and was posted to 40th Divisional Signal Company ISC, then engaged in the operation against the Mahsuds and Wazirs. His Brigade was then mobilised for Mesopotamia, and during his two years in that country he became an Operator, Visual, Class 1.

He served in the Afridi operation of 1930-31 and later in the Mohmand campaign of 1935. His name was brought to attention of the Army Commander for his outstanding work in the Chitral Relief of 1932.

He was granted an emergency commission in the Indian Army in 1940 and served with Southern Force Signals in Baluchistan with J.L. of C. Signals in Assam and Z.L. of C. Signals in Singapore. He was released in 1947.

By January, 1948, he was tired of civilian life and joined 536 L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., T.A., becoming B.Q.M.S. the same day. The Gunners had him for three years.

In 1952 he decided to try out the Supplementary Reserve, and served for three years as Captain (Q.M.), 51st (Highland) Signal Regiment. He retired in 1955 from A.E.R.O. with the rank of Major.

His home address was at 27, Vaux Crescent, Hersham, Surrey.

UPGRADING COURSES AT CATTERICK

1/58	Technician Radio	II-I	27 Oct. '70	1 July '71
1/40	Technician T E	II-I	27 Oct. '70	1 July '71
1/29	Technician R R	II-I	20 Oct. '70	10 June '71
1/56	Telegraph Op	II-I	27 Oct. '70	12 Feb. '71
1/48	Comcen Op	II-I	27 Oct. '70	29 Jan. '71
1/40	Driver R Signals	II-I	6 Oct. '70	11 Dec. '70
1/29	Electrician Driver	II-I	6 Oct. '70	11 Dec. '70
2/64	Telegraph Op	III-II	27 Oct. '70	12 Feb. '71
2/56	Electrician Driver	III-II	6 Oct. '70	27 Nov. '70

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CLOTHING

Since the beginning of April, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Captain A. N. C. Gent, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. E. G. Day, Major and Mrs. G. J. Malcolm, W.O.II (F. of S.) and Mrs. R. A. McKay, Captain R. Sampson, Major and Mrs. T. Rigby, Mrs. J. R. West, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. J. J. H. Swallow, Colonel G. D. T. Harris, Major and Mrs. D. J. D. McKail, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. E. R. Nanney Wynn, Lieutenant-Colonel L. V. McNaught-Davis, Mrs. H. Napper, Mrs. J. E. Stroud, Major P. A. Harding, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Lamb.

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Some further reflections on being posted to the Volunteers . . .

Want to be a Training Major?

By Major F. C. Lettin of 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)

FEW officers have the good fortune to command a Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, and fewer still initiate the process of integration. Thus doubly blessed, I could not reasonably expect to get as good an appointment again, but I was rather disappointed to hear that I was to be a Training Major in a T. & A.V.R. Signals Unit. My disappointment turned to gloom as I questioned fellow officers who had served with the T.A.

As others in the Regular Corps will find themselves in a similar position, my observations may be of comfort to them.

On 5th May, 1969, I reported to R.H.Q., 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), which is located in a rather depressing slum area of Glasgow. The Regiment was busily (frantically?) preparing for annual camp.

The enormous challenge presented . . .

The normal process of handover/takeover, which by now had become second nature, took on a different aspect as one became aware of the enormous challenge presented. Most of this arose from the reorganisation of the T. & A.V.R. in April, 1967; in the case of this Regiment, three T.A. Signal Regiments in Scotland had reduced to Squadron size to be formed into the new T. & A.V.R. unit—32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment. For good measure, a Squadron of the North Irish Horse Yeomanry joined the Regiment as Signallers in April, 1969. Changes in role, equipment and establishments had added their difficulties to the Regiment's problems. Squadrons are scattered—Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Londonderry. Fifty per cent of the Regiment had no trade, or the wrong trade for the job.

. . . the goal of operational efficiency could eventually be achieved

I had a canny idea of how the Regiment would perform at annual camp, particularly as this included a 13th Signal Group signal exercise. But they did perform—and perform well—in spite of all the difficulties. This was of enormous importance to me because it showed clearly that in spite of all the problems ahead, the goal of operational efficiency could eventually be achieved. This became the basis of my faith in the task ahead. Fruition will not occur in my tour, but there is no doubt it will be attained.

G.O.C. SCOTLAND HAS A WORD WITH MAJOR EATON AND MEN OF 69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON
Left to right: Major Eaton, Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Leask, Staff Sergeant Moore, Signalman McIntyre and Lance-Corporal Deans

AN INTERESTED LISTENER
Major-General Freddie Graham (Honorary Colonel, W.R.A.C., TAVR, Scotland) in conversation with Private Sandra Coppola (*left*) and Lance-Corporal Ina Martinez (*right*). Both are grandmothers

Credits and debits

The assets that we have to urge us on our way are:

Some first-rate volunteers (and, let's face it, some who do not contribute and will not be re-engaged).

A genuine belief that a good standard of operational capability is attainable.

An enthusiasm (weak in some sectors) to tackle the large training problem.

A high standard of Regular P.S.I.—some of the best I have met in my service—thanks to Royal Signals Records.

Up-to-date equipment (with a niggle here and there).

An enormous degree of goodwill and co-operation from the Regular Corps—particularly the Training Brigade.

Our problems—I could go on all day—but will mention three of the more important ones:

Time. Even cutting corners as we do, there is still never enough time to do all that is necessary.

The Regular Army attitude towards the T. & A.V.R.; ignorance of the T. & A.V.R. lies like a dead hand on progress. This, admittedly, is a generalisation, as some Regulars fight doggedly for our interests.

Money for training—although our pittance is being increased.

After a year in post, here are more down-to-earth observations: The job is far more exacting than my last, because the scope is so much greater and more varied. I have found it impossible to be bored. One works with responsive people. There is great scope for personal initiative. One's outlook develops extra dimensions. All the Regulars generally have much more responsibility than they had in the Regular Army and more freedom of action. But there are snags; a misfit is doubly miserable in a unit of this type, and a low-quality P.S.I. can do immeasurable long term harm. It can be a lonely life for an unmarried P.S.I. And to add two comments by departing P.S.I.s: "It will be nice to play games again" and "It will be a change going back to the Regular Army and working a five-day week."

I personally will find it a painful wrench when I am posted, for it is proving a thoroughly worthwhile experience.

A Tidying-up operation on the famous Fovant Badges

ON Monday, 13th April, a detachment of 30th Regiment set out for Fovant, a small village in Wiltshire on the A30 just outside Salisbury. There along a stretch of hillside about eight miles long were the famous Fovant Badges carved into the hillside by soldiers of the First World War who were in camp there. There are 11 bades and the task of the Regiment was to cut back the turf and re-chalk them. From the road beneath the badges they looked quite small, but when it was realised that the largest one was 150 feet high the work did not look so easy. However, undaunted, the men of 30th set up

THERE'S CHALK IN THEM THAR HILLS!
And that's what these members of 3 Squadron are after. As the operation went on it became more and more difficult to find it in sufficient quantities

A PRETTY TOUGH JOB—BUT A WELL DONE JOB
Members of I Squadron take a breather after the finishing operation on the badge of the Royal Warwickshires. Some of the badges were nearly 150 feet high

camp in the valley at East Farm, in a field kindly lent for the duration of the cleaning by **Mr. John Williams,** the owner, and himself a member of the Fovant Badge Association which was formed after the war to look after the badges.

It was not all work, but by a tremendous effort on everyone's part the last lump of chalk was raked over the last badge on Thursday evening, after four days of back-breaking but rewarding work.

Our thanks go to **Mr. Williams** for allowing us the use of the field and to the proprietor of the 'Pembroke Arms' who arranged an evening of food and drink for the workers on Wednesday evening, which was very welcome and enjoyable.

We would also like to wish 3 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment the best of luck when they cut the Royal Signals Badge at Fovant later this year.

Farewell Bangkok—or the last of 649 Signal Troop

By Captain K. G. Doyle

MANY of you younger soldiers may not have heard of us! This is hardly surprising because, to the author's shame, it is more than a year since we 'graced' the pages of THE WIRE.

Sadly these notes herald the disappearance of 649 Signal Troop, Bangkok, who are about to go into involuntary liquidation. Situated in the 'city of Angels' (the girls are gorgeous) or the 'Venice of the East' (the canals are muddy) we were formed in 1967 from the Golden Arrow Troop.

Despite the lack of notes the past year has been far from uneventful and for a Troop of fifteen men we have had many visitors including **Major-General P. F. Pentreath,** S.O.-in-C., **Brigadier D. E. Warren,** C.S.O. FARELF, **Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hild,** our C.O., and **Major Keith Olds,** our erstwhile Squadron Commander.

We have made our mark on Bangkok

Now that we are leaving Bangkok we like to think that we made our mark on that city. In the field of soccer we successfully won the First Farang—foreigners—soccer league and a year later donated and won the cup for the second and last Farang league. The darts team are to be congratulated on winning the final of their league, defeating after a play-off a team of American 'Bird' Colonels.

We shall miss the rigours of living at the 'White Inn'

Ten pin bowling plays a large part in the leisure activities of modern Bangkok with 25 major alleys dotted around the city. Here again the Troop, reinforced by wives and friends from the 'White Inn,' successfully brought home their particular league trophy. For those not in the know the 'White Inn' is the small and very comfortable hotel situated near the centre of the city which serves as our accommodation. We shall certainly miss the rigours of living in twin-bedded, air-conditioned rooms with our own swimming pool conveniently situated among the palms in the hotel grounds!

FAREWELL BANGKOK
Presentation of a 'SEATO' Shield by Major-General Autrey J. Maroun, Chief Military Planning Officer, SEATO, to 649 Signal Troop *From left:* Captain K. G. Doyle (O.C. 649 Signal Troop), Captain R. E. Wilson, D.F.C., R.N. (United Kingdom Military Adviser's Representative), General Maroun, W.O.II Gundersen, Sergeant Harrison and Corporal Waring

Christmas and New Year saw the Troop playing host to our many friends, starting with an official cocktail party on Christmas night, a party for a local orphanage on the 27th, party for the staff of the 'White Inn' on the 28th and finally a New Year's Eve party which brought in many letters of appreciation to the organiser, **W.O.II 'Taff' Gunderson.** To the astonishment of everyone, including the author, at 2345G (Bangkok time to the uninitiated) a piper in full ceremonial appeared and with a musical if somewhat unsteady hand piped until twelve chimes of Big Ben announced the arrival of 1970 in Bangkok. A guest was heard to remark that the "the reception of the chimes was very good" and the retort by a senior member of the SEATO staff, "Good aren't they, especially when they are seven hours early," brought the house down.

The SEATO Shield

However, we cannot escape the inevitable and our departure into history was brought home to us when on Friday, 24th April, the four of us who remained paraded in the office of the Chief of the Military Planning Office, **Major-General Autrey J. Maroun,** U.S.A., and **Captain Ken Doyle** received on behalf of the Regiment a SEATO plaque to mark the final departure of the Troop from Thailand.

That evening at a party round the poolside we said goodbye to many of our friends in Bangkok and in particular to our hosts at the White Inn, **Mr. and Mrs. Pakorn.** It was a very sad **Captain Doy'e** who presented to them on behalf of the Troop a shield and silver plate inscribed:

"Pak and Tia
from
649 Signal Troop
on the occasion of our departure from Thailand
27th April 1970"

As was said that night it was a very small token of our appreciation of all their kindness to us and to those who had gone before. I am sure all of you who have been fortunate enough to meet Pak and Tia will join with us in wishing them and the remaining four members of our Corps in Bangkok every happiness for the future.

KEEP US IN THE PICTURE

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

COLLEGE DIVERS' HAZARDOUS VENTURE

TWO members of the College's Sub-Aqua Club recently found themselves confronted by a highly unusual, and extremely dangerous, situation. They are **W.O.II 'Geordie' Sanderson,** Royal Signals, S.S.M. of Penney Squadron and the College's Diving Officer, and **W.O.I John Griffiths,** Royal Signals, our Superintendent Clerk.

In search of a rare vehicle

On the morning of Saturday, 23rd May, **W.O.I Griffiths** learned, over the telephone, that a **Mr. Tony Scott,** from London University, was making for the National Film Institute a film on the history of lead-mining, near Pateley Bridge. While making an earlier film, about the Civil War, he had noticed near the entrance to Bewlay Mine a miner's 'dolly'—a small, rail-borne, hand-propelled trolley, now almost unique. These are, or were, used only in handworked leadmines of which there are possibly three or four in the whole kingdom; certainly there are no others in Yorkshire.

Mr. Scott was anxious to include this rare vehicle in his film, but was unable to find it, and presumed that it had rolled some distance into the mine. As an 18in. deep stream ran down into the tunnel, and because of the presence of foul air, he sought the aid of the local Fire Service. They, who are taught diving by **W.O.II Sanderson,** suggested that the College Sub-Aqua Club might be able to help.

Tough going

Accordingly, **Messrs. Griffiths** and **Sanderson** went that evening to investigate. They found that the description of the mine's entrance as 'walk-in' was somewhat euphemistic; it measured a bare 4ft. by 3ft.—and the Chief Clerk stands 6ft. 2in. and weighs 15 stone!

THEY TOOK CONSIDERABLE RISKS
W.O.II 'Geordie' Sanderson and W.O.I John Griffiths of the Army Apprentices' College who went to great efforts at considerable risk to try and recover an old mineworkers' trolley intact from a disused mine tunnel

The tunnel is constructed in 70ft. 'legs,' each at an angle to its predecessor; thus the two Warrant Officers found themselves inching along in pitch blackness. The converging walls and roof forced them into an increasingly cramped posture, and after traversing some 200 yards **Mr. Griffiths** found himself well-nigh exhausted, with barely the strength to make the return journey.

This accomplished, though not without risk, **W.O.II Sanderson** made a second attempt. Wearing one air-tank and dragging another as reserve, he crawled through water, mud, silt and slime—not to mention rats—for an estimated 1,000 yards, only to find that silt and a partial roof-collapse had blocked the tunnel. There was no sign of the 'dolly,' and so he was forced to return, disappointed but certainly not daunted.

Asked how he felt about this extremely hazardous operation, **W.O.I Griffiths** produced what must be the under-statement of the decade. "It was," he said, "not a very pleasant job." **S.S.M. Sanderson,** in his turn, thought it an excellent, if unusual, example of how the Army is able—and always prepared—to help members of the community at large.

RETIREMENT OF COLLEGE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR

Retiring shortly from the Army after 25 years' service is **R.S.M. Desmond Boak,** of the Welsh Guards.

Born in Knaresborough, Yorkshire, on 9th November, 1927, **R.S.M. Boak** joined the Welsh Guards on 26th September, 1945. He has seen service in Germany (three times), Egypt, Cyprus, Aden and Canada — where, to his great delight, he was able to attend the Calgary Stampede. His home service has been mainly spent in public duties, including such ceremonial occasions as Her Majesty's Coronation, Trooping the Colour, and royal funerals. He has also been an Instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and for the last three years has been Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

RETIRING
R.S.M. Desmond Boak after 25 years' service

Here on Thursday, 28th May, he commanded his last College parade. On the following day he handed over to his successor, **R.S.M. Alfred Cunningham,** Irish Guards, and was 'dined out' at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Colonel 'Johnny' Clinch, Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, says of him: "**R.S.M. Boak** was an outstanding College Regimental Sergeant Major; he will be sadly missed by us all. He has given the College splendid service, and we wish him every success for the future."

Mr. Boak's own comment was: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my service and would gladly do every minute of it again. I especially enjoyed my last three years, working with young soldiers at Harrogate."

The College and NOISAC

On 2nd May the College sent two teams to the National Open Indoor Sub-Aqua Championships, held annually at the National Sports and Recreation Centre, Crystal Palace. Team 'A' comprised **Sergeant 'Jimmy' Greeves,** R.C.T., **Sergeant Tony Hanrahan,** R.I.R., **A/T. Brian Hayward** and **A/T. Douglas Stevenson;** in team 'B' were **Apprentice Tradesmen James Travers, David Reece, Stephen Sherratt** and **David Chorlton.** Overall team manager was **Sergeant Steve Graham,** Royal Signals.

Both teams entered the senior events, the apprentices thus competing against adults of international standard—teams from France and Holland were competing. The College's Sub-Aqua Club's achievements were, therefore, all the more encouraging. In the first event, a rescue relay race over 300 yards, of 16 teams competing our 'A' team finished 9th in 4min. 13.8sec. —which compared very favourably with the winning time of 3min. 37.7sec.

In the other team event—a 'lung-sharing' contest, our 'A' team finished 11th of 16 with a time of 9min. 14.4sec. The event was won by a Dutch team with a fantastic 6min. 55sec.

In the Individual Championships the apprentices were able to compete as juniors and so against their own age group. There were three events, each counting towards the Individual Championship on a 'points system.' Results were:

Individual rescue: 2nd, **A/T. Douglas Stevenson;** 3rd, **A/T. Brian Hayward.** Aqua-lung race: 1st, **A/T. Brian Hayward;** 3rd, **A/T. Travers.** Fin-swimming with surface dives: 3rd, **A/T. Douglas Stevenson.** Individual Championship: 2nd, **A/T. Brian Hayward;** 3rd, **A/T. Douglas Stevenson.**

Certificates were awarded by the NOISAC Committee to those placed in the championships; it is hoped that the Commandant of the College, **Colonel J. C. Clinch,** will present them at this term's Presentation of Colours Ceremony.

Both teams and individuals can be proud of their efforts; this is the first time we have competed—and only **Hayward** has previous experience. We hope to do even better next year.

1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 35

MAY has by and large been a month of June weather, and exercises apart there has been a stirring of bats and racquets in the summer sports.

Military activities

Turning aside from sport to work, 12 soldiers under **Sergeant Banham** went up to Todendorf for a week's air defence camp. A "thoroughly enjoyable week" was one comment. It should have been, each soldier banged off some 600 rounds, the last day's firing resulting in no less than three drogue targets being shot away!

We entered a team, under the captaincy of our E2 Squadron Commander **Major Bob Baker,** Kings, for the Royal Signals skill-at-arms meeting, held at Sennelager. Whilst as a team we failed to win any major prizes, in the Roupell competition **Sergeant Morrell** of 2 Squadron came third, and in the LMG pairs **Sergeant Morrell** paired by **Sergeant Morpeth** of 3 Squadron came third again. Nevertheless an enjoyable week was had by all, and perhaps we have laid the foundations for the future.

Theatre

The Verden Theatre Club has been in action again — playing a comedy this time. **Lance-Corporal Bob Vander Linden,** of H.Q. R.E., and **Lance-Corporal Tom Joynes,** of 2 Squadron, were co-producers of a cast which consisted of some ten newcomers, eight of which were soldiers.

Hello and Goodbye

On 5th June in 'A' Mess the officers of the Regiment gave a luncheon party to say goodbye to **Captain Jeremy Baily,** O.C. C1 Comcen, **Captain Willy Watson,** our Second-in-Command H.Q. and P.R.I., **Lieutenant Sandy Brill,** step up commhead commander, who leaves the Army at the end of July to emigrate to Australia, and to **Second-Lieutenant Philip Chaganis,** R.C.T., who has been attached to us for the last two months. We welcome in their place **Captain Joe Adams,** from 24th Signal Regiment, and **Lieutenant Jack Simpson** from the Signal Wing, R.M.A.

Marching—with a difference

An activity which has caught the imagination and fired the enthusiasm of a number of our soldiers is speedmarching which **Lieutenant John Neeve** describes in more detail below:

Seeing both the Adjutant, **Captain Richard Knox-Johnson,** and **Lieutenant John Kay,** of 1 Squadron, habitually disappearing every available weekend in light marching order, we assumed that they were either breaking in a new pair of D.M.S. boots or merely trying to impress! In fact, they were doing both but in addition they were taking part in the 'Volksmarch' or 'Volkslaufen' which are held all over Germany during the summer months. These marches, which are probably 'old hat' to some B.A.O.R. veterans, may be news to many as indeed they were to me. To the unenlightened a brief explanation may be of assistance:

The 'Volkslaufen' consists of a run, walk or march over a distance of 10km. and is held in villages and towns throughout the country, sponsored and organised by the athletics club of that village. The organisation incidentally is generally first class and the occasion attracts male and female participants from over a wide area. The marches invariably become an international event, for besides the usual German element, there are entrants from almost every European country—not least Britain.

SPEED MARCHERS
Second-Lieutenant John Kay and team set a fast pace for the determined looking ladies in their rear
Left to right: Signalman Michael Cuminskey, Signalman Errol Kerr, Corporal Geoffrey Budd, Signalman John Dean, Lance-Corporal Christopher Simmonds, Second-Lieutenant John Kay

Entrants who compete in either the run, walk or march, and finish in the bogey time receive a rather impressive commemorative medal. If first in one's group a gold medal is the prize, if in the first 20% a gold-rimmed silver medal, and if in the bogey time a silver medal is presented.

There is a special group for uniformed marchers. Squads consist of six men and this particular event is suitable for military groups and is generally very popular and well attended. Competition can be very keen and we have found that our biggest rivals (besides our own 1 Squadron team) are the teams entered by the German police.

These speed marches (for indeed that is what they are!) may sound a rather masochisic pastime for a sunny weekend but as well as the medal, many factors combine to make an outing of this kind most enjoyable. The route is usually through attractive scenery, a carnival atmosphere pervades, and the girls are a joy to behold!

We have only recently discovered what good value these marches are, but many teams collect the different medals with the fanatic persistence of a philatelist seeking a penny black! Following the 10km. march at Lindhurst, we entered a 10-man team for the four evening marches at Zeven. This rally was an international event consisting of a 15km. march each evening by over 5,000 troops from Germany, Holland and England. The public also had a 10km. route but the vast numbers precluded any hopes of speed marching and we generally marched the 15km. at a normal marching pace. Despite rain on the first two evenings, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and the marches culminated on the last evening with a march past the British, Dutch and German Generals who had arrived to view the event. This was followed by the presentation of the group and individual medals, and the infamous 'Blister Ball' held later that night.

As an enjoyable lead up to the Nijmegen marches, these weekend and evening Volkslaufen are invaluable—the medals being a deserving reward and an incentive to flagging spirits!

(Unfortunately a further account by **Second-Lieutenant John Kay** has had to be omitted owing to pressure on space but we are happy to publish a photograph of him and his team in action.—Editor).

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

Why not do so now ?

2nd Div. Signal Regiment
B.F.P.O. 46

THE Regiment has spent most of the month in various farms and woods in Westphalia. In spite of this **Major Colin Bunce** has managed to attend two courses including one with the German Army at Lake Starnberg. During a rare appearance in the Regiment he was heard to say how much he enjoyed life in the army, particularly the travel. Our other traveller is the Recce Officer, **Major Ronnie Sampson**. He has persuaded the aviators of 652 Aviation Squadron that they strap a bicycle to the helicopter when they go a reece-ing. The Germans are then treated to the picture of the helicopter landing, the officer jumping onto his bike and pedalling off, carrying, of course, his walking stick. This he states every recce officer must have. Why, we don't really know.

The Beergarden

The Radio Relay Squadron opened their Beergarden. This ambitious project has resulted in a Mediterranean boulevard setting, coloured umbrellas, brightly painted tables and chairs. Picture a party under floodlighting, with everything in full swing, table football, boat racing, one-armed bandits plus music at maximum peak. Add liberal quantities of Amstel and advice to everyone from **Sergeant John Atkinson** and that is 1 Squadron on a quiet night in barracks.

W.O.I D. C. Paterson has arrived as our new Superintendent Clerk. Both he and **Mrs. Paterson** are very welcome arrivals.

Canoe Club

We entered the B.A.O.R. Individual Sprint Championships on 22nd May and with twelve paddlers took part in every event possible. The venue was the Ruhr at Mulheim and is a wide, slow-moving river with plenty of depth for good facing. Despite a touch of thunder and high wind, we took first place in all senior events. **Lance-Corporals Wink** and **Pawlow** took most of the cups with a good follow-up in Class 4b by **Corporals Curran** and **Bingham.**

All distances were 500 yards and it took a number of heats to arrive at the finals. Some of our crews, such as **Signalman McKendrick** and **Signalman Harwood,** covered something like 5km. before the day was over. Not inconsiderable when you remember it was a sprint!

On 30th May we dispatched a small team consisting of **Wink, Pawlow** and **McKendrick** to the Belgian Nationals at Ghent. It was a rough trip down over the Belgian roads and the most unfortunate thing happened. One of our new Glass Gliders broke in half! This meant that **Wink** and **Pawlow** were boatless. We later borrowed one from the Belgian Olympic team. The standard was extremely high. With times of 1min. 48.3sec. for 500m. Senior K2, our boys did very well indeed with a time of 2min. 1.1sec. **Wink** and **Pawlow** took part in most events and after teaming up with **Kitson** of the British squad managed to come 6th and 7th in the Senior 10,000m. K1 and **Wink** 5th in the Junior. **Pawlow** and **Wink** were 3rd in 500m. Senior K2, 8th for **Pawlow** K1 Senior 1,000m. and 6th for **Wink** in the Junior.

The club is still expanding and we are now expecting a brand new mould for a 'Blizzard' white water racer, which should increase our production of high class canoes considerably.

Looking on the darker side, the turnover of exercises is very rapid and prevents us from forming and training a regular team of any standing. Nevertheless we would be very interested in meeting any other Units in Germany or the U.K. for almost any form of canoeing.

International Marching Competition

This was a race between teams of ten over a 12 kilometre circuit that formed part of the old Roman Army road around Königsbrunn, in Bavaria. **Lieutenant Robin Burrows** led the 2 Division team in early June around the gruelling course in very warm conditions. The meeting has considerable status in Southern Europe with the Italians and Swiss entering representative national sides. The 2 Division team did well to qualify and were presented with bronze awards. Switzerland was first, Italy second.

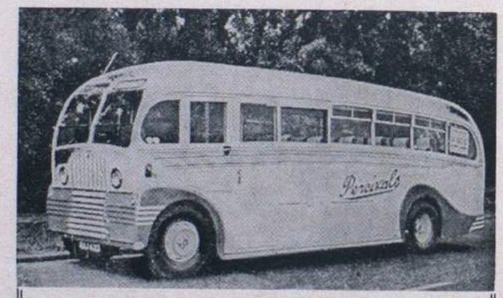
The social part of the occasion was not ignored by the hosts who had cocktail parties, a ball of nations and various junketings arranged. **R.S.M. Richardson** was somewhat restricted in his social performance as a TV team were filming the Regiment's visit. He had never before had to break off so many conversations so quickly. **Signalman Paul Dilworth** has not confirmed his engagement after a whirlwind romance, but **Signalman Jim Williams** is now taking German lessons and is not speaking in any language to the soldier who stole his girl from under his nose.

The Signals team created a great hit at the ball when they appeared in No. 1 Dress. Their efforts next day, doubling with a pack, also got a cheer from the crowd.

The 'Gentlefolk' Group meet the Stars.
Date — Saturday, 16th May, 1970.
Place — B.B.C. Camden Theatre, London.
Events — Finals of Army Music Group and Singers' Competition.

The lights were dimmed, compere **Keith Fordyce** introduced us and we were 'on the air.' For myself, **Corporal Peter Ferns, Signalman Joey McAllister, Lance-Corporal John Flynn** and **Corporal Phil Phillips** this was the moment that we had been practising for for the past three months. We had seven minutes in which to prove to the judges that we were the best group in the Army. The songs we sang were 'Isn't it grand (life in the Army), 'Dirty Old Town' and 'Killicranky.' We had been a little apprehensive as we were the only Folk Group in the finals, but the audience really took to us and we went down very well.

The whole show took two-and-a-half hours and the standard was really high; while the judges were deliberating the audience were entertained by comedian **Johnny Ball.** The judging panel consisted of **Tommy Sanderson, Julie Rogers, John Benson, Ron Goodwin, Terry Foster** and **Hank Marvin,** under the chairmanship of **Steve Race.** After what seemed like hours the placings were announced and we were third behind 'Perfect Pure and Innocent' (Southern Command) and 'The Tartan Clan' (B.A.O.R.). Although being a little disappointed at the result it never spoiled a really fabulous evening and meeting the lovely Julie Rogers was reward enough, and, there is always that old saying, " If at first you don't succeed, try and try again."



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"FAST, EXCITING AND FULL OF SURPRISES"

This was the description of the ten new canoes by members of the 4th Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment Canoe Club, after they had been tested out on the River Weser. Canoeing members of the Regiment are now in hard training in readiness for the Divisional and BAOR championships

In the photo rafting up are—*Left to right:* Signalman 'Smudge' Smith, Sergeant Fred Howley, Signalman Dave Beatty, Lance-Corporal Geordie Watson and Lance-Corporal Mick Lloyd Williams

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

IT is noticeable that all contributions for the notes this month have a sporting flavour. Although, as a Regiment, we have not taken to the field for a month there has been feverish activity as Squadrons have prepared for the Commanding Officer's periodic inspections. So, we should be fit mentally, bodily and technically for the two months of exercises and camps which lie ahead. Now for the Regimental sports report.

Sailing

A good start has been made this season in getting two courses at the British Kiel Yacht Club under way and also two courses at the Mohne See Sailing Club.

The latter enabled the Regiment to sail some fourteen boats in a Regimental regatta which will be recorded in more detail next month.

Among the newly trained helmsmen who are already showing promise the names of **Lance-Corporal Swaile, Signalmen Foster, Richardson** and **Hurrell** come to mind. They very quickly realised that one doesn't have to win yacht races to enjoy them and that there is fun and 'cut-throat' competition to be had right through the fleet.

Baltic sailors may be interested to know that the British Kiel Yacht Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. In addition **Herr Bruno Splieth,** who is an Olympic helmsman, has been with the club throughout that 25 years.

Athletics

The Regimental and Divisional meetings are already behind us. The Regimental Day was bedevilled with bad weather, but it did achieve the object in finding what talent we had, or perhaps more important what talent we were lacking.

Team training and astute selection by **Major Stork** enabled the team to climb from a low position in the past two years in the Divisional meeting to fifth place this year. Without listing all the excuses, a little fortune on the day would certainly have improved that position by at least one place.

Mention must be made of the two Divisional events which our team won. In the pole vault **Corporal Tarrant** and **Lance-Corporal Watson** out-vaulted all their opponents. **Corporal Jordon** and **Gunner Innis** also beat all comers in the high jump. We hasten to add that winning these two particular events is not indicative of our inability to 'come down' or that we are all frequently made to jump!

Water polo

Lieutenant Barnes gathered that there was some interest in this sport and after two or three scratch games in the local pool decided there was sufficient enthusiasm to run an inter-Squadron tournament. This came about and was indeed most successful and very exciting. At the start of the final game in the league three teams were in the running. The competition was decided by one goal scored in the dying seconds of that game. So the 'cliff hanger' ended with 2 Squadron beating H.Q. and 3 Squadron by one point.

Since the initial enthusiasm **Captain Hood** has arrived in the Regiment and a squad of players are training under his guidance in preparation to challenge local teams.

Shooting

Although not able to boast any team honours in the Corps Rifle Meeting at Sennelager the morale of our team was very high as a share of the individual trophies came our way. **Captain Genders** was the champion shot, winner of the Roupell Cup and runner-up in the pistol event. **Lance-Corporal O'Connor** and **Signalman Barber** won the L.MG pairs championship and **Barber** was also third in the class 'B' competition.

We recently entered a team in a local competition involving small bore and pistol shooting. It was an interesting morning's sport and the ability of the German Police with the pistol swung the scales in their direction. **Captain Stormer** and **Corporal Jordon** shot very well but as a team we managed fourth place in nine entries. Local hospitality during the afternoon and evening celebrations justified our entry!

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

THE merry month of May came and went in a blaze of glorious sunshine. One-hundred-and-fifty men from the Regiment, under the command of **Major Mike Weiner,** went for three weeks to the sunny shores of Cyprus.

On their return, all beautifully tanned, one wag was heard to say, "The only difference between Bulford and Cyprus is the duty-free kit." Oh well, you can't win them all. A full account of the Cyprus exercise will be published later.

Within seven days of the men returning from Cyprus a further 150, under the joint command of **Major Neville Reed,** 3 Q.D.G., and **Major Tony Holland** have gone to Penhale, Cornwall. We wonder what the residents of Newquay think of the 3rd Division. We shall find out in our next issue.

Reunion

Early in the month the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan,** the Second-in-Command **Major P. G. Rogers,** O.C. 2 Squadron **Major D. Watson** and the R.S.M. **W.O.I G. E. Morrill** attended the 3rd Divisional Signals dinner in London. It was a great pleasure to sit and talk and listen to these old stagers. The interest and devotion to the Corps and to the Regiment was a wonder and lesson to us all.

Many were the stories of the 39s and 40s, but all looked a little sheepish when the guest of honour, **Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C.,** spoke of when he was first commissioned in 1909. That wonderful old soldier, **Sergeant Vic Cole** from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was in attendance.

As you can see from the photograph he is obviously in good health. It shows the Second-in-Command, R.S.M. and **Sergeant Coles** enjoying the excellent dinner.

We look forward to next year when these old signallers will meet again.

ENCHANTMENT!

Sergeant Vic Cole of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, steals this picture which was taken at the 3rd Divisional Signals Dinner in London. He had been listening to the Guest of Honour, Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, D.S.O., M.C., recalling memories of when he was first commissioned in 1909—and obviously it brought back many wonderful memories to this Chelsea Pensioner. With him in the photo are: Major P. G. Rogers, 21C 2 Squadron of 3rd Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment and W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. E. Morrill

Sergeants' Mess

In the Sergeants' Mess the highlight of the month was the farewell dinner for our ex-R.S.M., **W.O.I Tim Templeton.** After a fabulous dinner prepared by **W.O.II Jeff Baxter,** A.C.C., and his team, **Tim Templeton** was presented with an inscribed pair of candelabra by the R.S.M. It was the first time anyone in the Mess had seen **Tim** lost for words, but he eventually replied in his own inimitable style. Although he has now left the service, he is not to be lost to us. As an honorary member we hope that he and his good lady, **Corree,** will honour us with their company many times to come in the future.

At the moment feverish preparations are going ahead for the Anniversary Parade in Salisbury on 21st June, and the Stratco and Corps shoots. The R.S.M. is looking for a recipe to conjure up 'instant soldiers' but we have no doubt the old saying will again prove to be correct, "It will be alright on the day." But more of that in the next issue.

Arrivals/Departures

We welcome to the Regiment **Lieutenant Oddie, Second-Lieutenants Holden** and **Conran, W.O.I Malone,** R.E.M.E., **W.O.IIs Blank** and **Spiers.** Unfortunately we had to say a fond farewell to **W.O.II Colin Johnson** who has gone to tiptoe through the tulips of Holland in his size 12 boots, and **W.O.II Wally Wheeler** who seeks the sun in Hong Kong. Finally, our congratulations go to **R.Q.M.S. Bob Arnold** who is leaving us shortly to take over as R.S.M. of 20 Armd. Bde. Signal Squadron.

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

MAY was a hectic month, which although not unusual for this Regiment, was different because for once the rush was not entirely due to exercises. With the Whitsun Grant and Queen's Birthday (Ascension Day) holidays there was only time for two three-day exercises. As always 7th also managed to fit in sport. 3 Squadron, who won the inter-Squadron athletics meeting on 15th May, describe their success:

Regimental athletics meeting

True to tradition, 3 Squadron's penchant for last-minute surprises held firm. On Monday 11th the news that there was to be a Regimental athletics meeting on the Friday was carefully leaked. How many people will say, "Ah yes, four days in which to choose and train a team," but Exercise 'Lone Hawk' began on Tuesday with a return to barracks on Thursday! After completing the post-exercise chores there was just time to choose a team, although many members selected would consider 'press-ganged' a better description.

Just before the meeting started on Friday morning with the second strings' 100 metres, the Squadron had two hammer throwers and a pole vaulter present. In the nick of time the remainder of the team turned up with the inevitable exceptions. With some last-minute shuffling and shunting, the team was suitably reorganised although the missing members turned up in time for their events. By the end of the morning we had built up a lead of 20 points, a lead which was kept through the afternoon thereby beating 5 Squadron, the winners by a far larger margin last year.

Our O.C., **Major Keith Allwright,** was doubly pleased as he was handing over the Squadron that day to **Major David Morris,** and showed his pleasure by buying a crate of beer for consumption by the team (which somehow included **Signalman Frank Hayes**).

Shooting

Another success story, albeit more planned, concerns shooting. In small-bore 7th were the leading qualifiers in the B.A.O.R. small-bore championships, but two 'off' days in the final pushed us back to fourth place. Two teams entered for the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. small-bore championships when we had more success; the 'A' team came first and the 'B' team fifth. This was a fair reward for **Captain Ray Raynor** who, although a full-bore shot, worked hard at training the other teams.

Full-bore shooting had some success at the Royal Signals B.A.O.R. Skill-at-Arms meeting. Here the Regiment won the trophy awarded for the leading team in 1 (BR) Corps but were overall runners-up, following a close battle with 21st Signal Regiment, whom the team will no doubt encounter at Bulford in the near future.

Cricket

The cricket season started with considerable enthusiasm; however, it was hampered by various grounds not being ready, causing cancellations of early fixtures. When we did get off (or is it on) the ground, the 5th Inniskillings provided us with excellent competition thereby enabling the first team to be selected from the wide choice available. The remainder have formed a 2nd XI under the captaincy of **Lance-Corporal 'Jock' Cochrane,** and this team has already chalked up two wins out of two played. The Regimental players have taken with relish to all-day games on Sundays and with Brad's XI ('The Travellers,' a team selected from various units), they have proved good entertainment and provide great experience.

Under the driving force of **Corporal Ken Preston** the Club room was completed for the beginning of the season, but unavoidably before we moved in workmen arrived to change the radiators. We hope to have a belated opening shortly.

Motor cycling

The motor cycle trials season has started and a team of riders are busily preparing for several forthcoming events. An encouraging feature is the recent success of **Sergeant Vic Jinks** who recently won the NATO class trophy in the local civilian 'Leopoldsche' trial, which consisted of six sections varying from rock to water. The team has recently lost the services of Army rider **Staff Sergeant Tom Fayers** whose experience will be greatly missed; however, under the firm guidance of our trials officer, **Captain (Q.M.) 'Paddy' Ford,** and the experience and enthusiasm of **Staff Sergeant Herb Atherley** we are confident of welding together a successful team for the 'Berlin' in July, 'B.A.O.R.' in August and the Bordon trial in September.

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG TRIALS AHEAD

Sergeant Vic Jinks at the Leopoldsche Trial, where he won the N.A.T.O. Class Trophy

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Gliding

THERE is a growing interest in gliding in the Regiment and recently four members of CT Troop (**Signalmen Underwood, Robinson, Taylor** and **Pe.lin**), together with **Musician Jenkins** and also **Signalman Newton** from the Pay Office, attended a one-week course at R.A.F. Dishforth.

The course was organised by the Clevelands Gliding Club, which is an R.A.F./Army Club, under the auspices of the R.A.F. Gliding and Soaring Association, and the instruction was given on the club's T21 two-seater trainer.

The majority of the course managed 40 flights, and **Signalman Newton** distinguished himself by flying solo the week-after the course, thereby gaining the British Gliding Association A and B certificates.

The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** visited the course on the last day and made a couple of flights after the gliding officer had explained the controls to him in detail. **Colonel Lockwood** was heard to comment that they were somewhat familiar, and produced his log book which showed that not only was he a solo glider pilot, but that he had also been a light aircraft flying instructor.

Personal happenings

We bid farewell to **Lieutenant McLuckie** and **Sergeant Sixsmith,** of 2 Troop. **Lieutenant McLuckie** goes to Bovington on the R.A.C. R.S.O.'s course, prior to posting to 7th Signal Regiment for attachment to 3 RTR. **Sergeant Sixsmith** leaves

us for the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate.

We welcome **Major Wood** as O.C. I Wing, and we also bid a brief welcome to **Second-Lieutenant Day,** who joins us for two months prior to departing for Sharjah.

Golf

Signalman Carveth, who was an assistant professional at Bishop's Stortford, prior to joining the Army in September, 1969, plays off a scratch handicap and has had a very successful start to his first season of Services golf tournaments.

After coming fourth in this year's Army Championships at St. Andrew's, with scores of 75 and 79, only three strokes behind the winner, he has been selected to play for the Army against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in June.

His other successes are as follows:

1st May.—*Northumbrian District Spring Meeting.* Winner scratch prize, score 74. Runner-up in handicap competition.

6th May.—*Played for Northumbrian District v. R.A.F. Catterick.* Winner, scratch prize, score 78.

8th May.—*Northern Command Spring Meeting.* Third scratch prize, score 76.

9th May.—*Royal Signals Championship, Catterick.* Winner, with scores 79 and 77, and represented the Corps v. York Golf Club. Winner of the Catterick Garrison Scratch Cup.

Athletics

The Regimental Athletics Meeting was held on Friday morning, 22nd May. It was nice to see the whole Regiment together, away from the pressures of recruit training. The stadium was full of familiar cadre and recruits, all relaxing in the sun.

1 Squadron won the tug-of-war cup, beating 2 Squadron then H.Q. Squadron/I Wing, both with two straight pulls. They also won the athletics cup, narrowly beating H.Q. Squadron/I Wing.

1 Squadron dominated the track events. There was some fine running by **Lieutenant T. G. B. Fish** and **Corporal Kenyon** in the sprints. The field events were a closed shop for H.Q. Squadron/I Wing, with **Sergeant Boase** and **Sergeant Davidson** taking most of the credit.

Mrs. F. C. Lockwood kindly presented the prizes at the end of the meeting.

From this meeting runners were selected to represent the Regiment in invitation events in the N.E. Yorkshire Police Athletic Meeting, held in Catterick on 28th May. The results were a little disappointing, with **Lieutenant T. G. B. Fish, Lieutenant C. D. McK. Kemp** and **Corporal Smith** all just failing to qualify for the finals in their events. The standards were high, however, and the match practice will undoubtedly be invaluable in the team's training programme for the Brigade athletics.

Warcop

The normal pattern of Officer/N.C.O. training was broken in May, when the Officers and N.C.O.s of the Regiment forsook the safety of the I Wing cinema and set forth for the wilds of Warcop for a weapon training 'teach-in.' Under the guidance of the Regimental Weapon Training Staff, the Permanent Staff were given two days intensive tuition on the ranges of Warcop.

The advance party arrived in Westmorland on Friday, whilst the main group of the 'victims' arrived early on Saturday morning. Very soon the work was in full swing. The noise of exploding grenades and small arms fire bore witness to the feverish activity.

During the morning **Brigadier Tighe** paid a flying visit to **Warcop** and was, no doubt, impressed by the efforts of a certain Sergeant on the 'Jungle Path.' Whilst that Sergeant's shooting was not outstanding, his acting was brilliant.

Many were surprised by their own success and this, no doubt, gave rise to much of the enthusiasm which was generated.

On Saturday afternoon, the competition to find the best all-round shot began to take shape. The winner, however, did not emerge until the last moment.

The day's shooting over, preparation for the night patrol exercise began. Two routes had been prepared, and the exercise organised on a competitive basis. Points were allotted for achieving specified objectives and for time. The winning teams were the cooks, led by **Captain D. J. Daniell,** A.C.C., the Messing Officer, and a team of subalterns, led by **Lieutenant T. G. B. Fish.** Judging by the amount of rations tucked away in combat jackets, the cooks obviously believe that a patrol marches on its stomach. The enemy, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood, R.S.M. F. M. Orr,** and the Weapon Training Staff harassed all who crossed their path.

After a church service on Sunday morning, the programme continued with section attacks and pistol. The section attacks proved a considerable strain for some. Four breathless rushes up a long hill are obviously not everyone's idea of a Sunday morning stroll.

A curry lunch and the prizegiving concluded the programme of events. The patrol leaders of the winning patrols were presented with their prizes; **Captain D. J. Daniell,** A.C.C., won the prize for the best shot, after a tie and a re-shoot on the pistol; **Staff Sergeant Cox,** R.A.P.C., was the runner-up.

Everyone who took part enjoyed the Warcop weekend. The whole affair was a great success, one which will undoubtedly be repeated.

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

Regimental Weekend

THE outstanding event during the month of May was our Regimental Weekend, held during the Spring Bank Holiday. On this occasion we invited a number of relatives and friends from the United Kingdom, who were met at Marylebone Station by **Staff Sergeant Dave Brown** (Intelligence Corps), who volunteered as the guide and mediator. In spite of a very long journey to Birgelen, and a few knotty problems solved very ably by **Staff Sergeant Brown,** our visitors arrived in good form.

Our weekend programme got off to an excellent start on Saturday, 23rd May, with an Inter-Troop Six-a-Side Hockey Tournament, organised by **Lieutenant Tim Mountford** and won by 'B' Troop, 1 Squadron. A further 'attraction' was the Officers' Mess versus the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess match, which was reminiscent of the traditional annual tussle . . . what was the referee for? In addition, a Crazy Games Contest was organised by **Sergeant Instructor Pete Scales,** and once more, the five 'funfare'-type games, at the charge of 10 pfennigs a go, helped to swell our Swimming Pool Fund. An enjoyable afternoon, perhaps tiring for some; however, tired or not, our Regimental ball, that same evening, was a great success. "It was a joy to see so many people having fun," said one visitor—"even if there was some delay in being served with my beer," was the curt reply from a thirsty soldier.

The following day, after a church service and an early lunch, our R.S.M., **W.O.I Eric Filder,** organised a motor gymkhana, with all the colour and expertise expected at a grand prix meeting. The Le Mans start, a sprint of 50 yards, followed

HIT THE TARGET—AND THE LADY TAKES A BATH

. . . a little bit hard perhaps on the ladies but it was all part of the fun of 13th Regiment's Regimental weekend. This sideshow was extremely popular—and surprisingly enough the ladies enjoyed it too. *Left to right in the picture:* Private Boyd-Brown, Private Bladon and Lance-Corporal Green

by a series of difficult, but light-hearted events. **Lance-Corporal Chris Bolt** and his energetic crew won the first prize in his Mini. We finished with an entertaining finale, a race between T.M. Troop's 'beast' and those 'in opposition,' who successfully completed a circuit covered in flour and water, **W.O. Ken Kennington** and others looked quite revolting!

On Monday, we faced up to the major event of the weekend, our annual Regimental athletic meeting. **Captain Bill Lockie,** our Athletics Officer, took charge, and with all the 'White City professionalism,' ran an extremely good meeting. 'Fiddle,' was the cry, as the Commanding Officer and **Mrs. Judy Baldwin** won the three-legged race, closely followed by the Second-in-Command and **Mrs. Yvonne Rogers.** The Inter-Squadron Trophy was won by 1 Squadron after a fairly close tussle with H.Q. Squadron and 2 Squadron, last year's winners. A large number of sideshows and stalls were provided by members of the Regiment for the many, and sprained ankles for **Lance-Corporal Ida Green,** who would insist on falling into the water!

On the morning of 26th May we said farewell to all our visitors. **Staff Sergeant Brown** escorted them back to the U.K. *Bon voyage* friends, until the next time.

Regimental Full-Bore Shooting

Our Regiment took part in the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting at Sennelager from 24th May to 27th May. Our team gave a good account of themselves. A special mention for **Corporal Dave Hankins** for attaining the highest individual score in the Whitehead Cup Competition, and **Lieutenant Colin Riley** who, as an individual in the overall competition, came eleventh.

Adventure Training

Our Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' Adventure and Initiative Training continues. We have not, as yet, hit the highlight of the year in this connection, however our hopes are high. For instance, three ventures, although still in the planning stage, appear to be promising. **Sergeant John Bandey's** aim is to fly in Concorde 002, **Sergeant John Wallace** plans to visit Mexico and **Staff Sergeant Barry Stanton** hopes to swim the Channel—the shortest route and in relays. Good luck to them, we hope to have more to say on the subject.

Although we have not yet found an all-exciting adventure, a number of particularly interesting exercises have been held. A brief report on a few follows:

Exercise 'Witches Hat'

This exercise was commanded by **Sergeant John Bulley** and supported by **Lance-Corporal Hugh Fisher** and **Signalman Burns.** The party set out for Bad Hürsburg with the intention of discovering the truth or otherwise of the reported witchcraft in the area. "We had a splendid time and learnt a great deal in the area; however we cannot say if there is any witchcraft practiced, everybody was very reluctant to speak!"

Exercise 'Auto Diamond'

This exercise was planned and executed by **Sergeant Graham Adlington** assisted by **Corporal Peter Hand** and **Lance-Corporal Tony Bird.** The aim was to learn something of the Diamond Works in Amsterdam. A most enlightening exercise. "I've never seen so many and such big diamonds before; I didn't know they existed," said **Lance-Corporal Tony Bird.** It was clear, too, that they were equally impressed by the cutting, polishing and general meticulous care taken in the works. During the short stay in Amsterdam, **Sergeant Graham Adlington** managed to visit the International Motor Racing Circuit. Shortly before they departed **Sergeant Adlington** and **Corporal Peter Hand** fitted in a game of tennis against two Dutch friends, known in the area as outstanding players. Bang goes our Anglo-Dutch relations! **Sergeant Adlington** and **Corporal Hand** went and won, they are quite good!

Exercise 'Olympia'

A study of the Munich Olympic Stadium, in the course of preparation, was made by **Staff Sergeant Peter Goonan, Corporal Pete Cant** and **Lance-Corporal Terence McGrath.** The money, time and enormous effort that goes into this is incredible. **Staff Sergeant Peter Goonan** and his team can now look forward to the 1974 Olympic Games with interest and some first-hand knowledge.

AT FIRST AID—THEY ARE THE TOPS!

13th Signal Regiment's First Aid Team which won the Rhine Area competition

Left to right: Staff Sergeant Maunder, Corporal Hudson, Corporal Canning, and Sergeant Thorne

Exercise 'War History'

Details of the last war are inexhaustible, so **Sergeant 'Geordie' Blair, Corporal George Canning** and **Corporal Dave Foulkes** set out to examine the prisoner of war camp at Dachau. A thoroughly interesting exercise and "almost frightening to think that human beings were imprisoned in these conditions only 30 or so years ago."

Exercise 'Seigfreid'

The last war again. In this exercise **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller, Corporal Al Hindmarsh** and **Lance-Corporal Terry Robertson** examined the remains of the Seigfreid Line. "It only runs from just south of Aachan to a few miles north of Monchau, along the French border. It was clearly built through backgardens, etc., and nothing was going to stop them in their fever to build this defensive wall," said **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller.** "What was the point of it all, the area South of Aachan is fairly hilly whilst the border running north of Aachan is relatively flat—it was a waste," said **Corporal Al Hindmarsh.**

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

The wind of change for 14th Signal Regiment

THERE can hardly be a unit in the Corps that has undergone a greater change in recent times than the 14th Regiment. During the last year the unit has changed in role, in location, and almost entirely in personalities. From being the U.K. terminal Regiment of D.C.N. based in Gloucester the unit has changed to the role of an air portable Force Rear Link Regiment of Strategic Command located in Worcester.

Though this change has been well reported in THE WIRE, perhaps there may be one or two who may not be too sure of what our organisation is. Briefly we have three operational squadrons each of which is divided into self-contained air portable troops. These are 1 Squadron under **Major Peter Hartshorn** that has D13s; 2 Squadron commanded by **Major Richard Reynolds** has the larger E21s, and **Maior Basil Complin's** No. 3 Squadron that the two TSC 500 satellite earth station troops.

These changes, coupled with time, has inevitably meant a large turnover of personalities; the moves of many have already been reported in previous notes, but some of the more principal changes in the immediate future are:

Departures

Major J. M. Newman, June, O.C. 3 Squadron; **Captain R. M.**

Goymour, July, O.C. 'S' Troop; **Major C. S. Galbraith,** July, Second-in-Command; **Captain G. R. Funnel,** July, O.C. 602 Signal Troop; **Captain P. L. Bye,** August, Adjutant; **Second-Lieutenant A. R. Gale,** August, O.C. 'E' Troop; **Major (Tfc.) N. MacLeod,** September (on retirement), U.P.M.; **Captain A. D. Steel** (on retirement), M.T.O.; **W.O.I (F. of S.) A. R. Jarratt; Sergeant E. G. Jeffries; Sergeant M. J. Cawte; W.O.II R. H. Jays; Sergeant J. G. Howie; Sergeant G. R. Timms; Sergeant J. W. Brand.**

Arrivals

Major B. C. Complin, June, O.C. 3 Squadron; **Lieutenant C. H. G. Grosvenor,** R.A.P.C., June, P.M.R.; **Captain K. G. Doy'e,** July, Adjutant; **Captain W. J. P. Robins,** July, O.C. 602 Signal Troop; **Lieutenant R. W. Barry,** July, O.C. 'E' Troop; **Lieutenant C. J. Dakin,** August, O.C. 'S' Troop; **Captain (Tfc.) R. M. Ewens,** October.

A 'Foreman' on the ocean wave

Recently, 1 Squadron had a chance to find out how the Silent Service set about the job of communicating when they were at sea, so **W.O.I Jim Dunlevy** was despatched on a liaison visit to H.M.S. *Albion*.

The *Albion*, an aircraft carrier, has recently been refitted as a Commando carrier, and was doing her run-up trials in the English Channel. During these trials she was to take part in a short communications exercise with 'Alpha' Troop, hence the excuse for the visit.

Once on board the ship and settled in, **F. of S. Dunlevy** was duly introduced to those members of the crew who were concerned with the exercise and for two days interested himself with the maintenance of the said link. Meanwhile, the ship had put to sea and was running up and down the Channel. Had the weather been bad this could have been an unpleasant experience for a soldier. Fortunately at the time the Channel was calm but foggy.

The exercise was fairly successful and when it was over **F. of S. Dunlevy** had time to make a detailed tour over one of H.M. ships, in his innocence going to a place where most sailors fear to tread, the bridge, and the mysterious things that happened there he found impressive, but by contrast the boiler rooms and engine room seemed to be quite primitive, particularly the boiler room which gave the impression of a highly organised large-scale camp kitchen, where little sailors spent their working day running around adjusting the flames of what looked like large camp cookers.

All good things must, however, come to an end and after the third day **F. of S. Dunlevy** was put ashore at Brixham by landing craft, it being too foggy for helicopters to fly. He came back to Worcester singing the praises of naval food and rum and with the firm conviction that the only reason why the Marine Commandos jump out of their landing craft with such alacrity under all conditions, is because there can't be anything worse than a landing craft!

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Visit of Commander Singapore District

THE new Commander Singapore District, **Brigadier D. W. V. P. O'Flaherty, D.S.O.,** visited the Regiment on 8th May. This was his first visit since taking up his present appointment. A briefing on the Regiment's role was followed by a tour of the Army Communications Centre Complex at Tanglin and the Dover Road accommodation and sporting facilities. This very short visit was rounded off with an inspection of the Soldiers' Mess and a luncheon party in the Officers' Mess. We hope, and expect, to see the Brigadier again before long.

Visit of the D.P.S. (Army)

The Director of Personnel Services (Army) paid a very short visit to the Regiment on 26th May during the course of his tour of Far East. As the visit was of very limited duration the General was only able to meet a few members of the Regiment. However, he did meet a group of the Regiment's families in the informal atmosphere of the Dover Road swimming pool and was able to watch the children, the 'Dover Dolphins,' receiving instruction from the P.T. staff under **C.S.M.I. Seddon,** A.P.T.C. Judging by the fact that the D.P.S. was somewhat late leaving, we believe he enjoyed his stay and found it informative.

The French affairs

On 8th May, the Princess Mary Officers' Mess took on something of a new look. On the approach road, signs appeared inviting you to 'Tenez la droite' and the batten-swinging Gendarme (resembling a heavily disguised **Corporal Maynard**) controlled the car park and expressed suitably voluble displeasure at anyone not displaying yellow headlights! In the centre of the lawn a particularly French circular construction whose function we could only conclude was 'normale' was strategically placed.

A SWINGING PARTY

In the scene 'doing their thing' Miss Carol Nutt, Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Gilbert and Mrs. Hild

The interior of the Mess was pure 'Left Bank' and the required dress of all patrons was definitely French and definitely relaxed! The occasion for all this 'entente cordiale' was a most successful and enjoyable Royal Signals/R.E.M.E. party in the French style—plenty of vin ordinaire, plenty of good food, les girls and all topped off with gay music provided by the '6 Kiwis.' Perhaps the pictures should speak for themselves. Positively *no* prizes are offered for an identification of the character portrayed!

Cricket

The Regimental cricket team, having played friendly matches with varying success, entered the first round of the District Knock-out Cup competition on Wednesday, 4th May. Our opponents at the 'Tanglin Oval' were H.Q. FARELF and the match turned out to be a 'cliff-hanger.' These matches are played on a one-innings limited-over basis and the rules allow, in the unlikely event of a tie, for the result to go to the side with the least wickets down. H.Q. FARELF batted first and scored 135 for eight wickets in their allotted 30 overs. The Regiment's innings was marked by some useful aggressive batting by **Corporal Bill Dunn,** of 121 Australia Signal Squadron, and a consistent and steady innings by **Major Peter Tripp.** Nevertheless, to score at more than five runs an over looked to be overstretching our talents and wickets began to fall. However, with 29 overs bowled we had lost six wickets and had got within two runs of a winning score. **Captain Roger Garlick** struck the fifth ball, ran one and in attempting another was run out. That left the score tied and all that was required of **Major Dick Turpin** was to keep out the last ball for the decision to go to us having lost only seven wickets. As **Major Turpin** is still in 18th Signal Regiment you can conclude that he was successful.

Football

Our very successful Regimental football team suffered a particularly sad loss in the departure to the United Kingdom on release from the Army of the team's captain, **Corporal Eddy Weedy.** **Corporal Weedy** captained the Regimental team for over a year and captained the Corps XI in FARELF throughout 1969. He also played regularly for the Army and toured Hong Kong with the Army side in October, 1969. Earlier this year he played for the Combined Services against Negri Sembilan State. During an attachment in Bangkok with 649 Signal Troop he joined and coached the Milwawkee Coolies, a soccer team comprised of United States Service personnel. For his services to Anglo/American relations he received a congratulatory letter from the British Ambassador and the Senior American Army Officer in Thailand.

Corporal Weedy is a very fine and entertaining footballer and his departure is a great loss to this Regiment, the Corps and the Army.

At his last game for the Regiment on 18th May he was presented with an inscribed plaque by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild,** as a memento of his footballing career in the Far East. We wish him every success in the future.

Exercise 'Bersatu Padu'

With the departure in mid-May of 249 Signal Squadron for the exercise location in West Malaysia, Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' really got under way as far as this Regiment is concerned. This five-nation exercise culminates in a major operation at the end of June and the story from 249 Signal Squadron view point will be fully reported in our August/September notes.

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major K. Watts**
Adjutant	...	**Captain M. L. P. Brock**
R.S.M.	...	**W.O.I C. Speight**
H.Q. Squadron	...	**Major J. G. Harry**
		W.O.II Zainul Abeedin
1 Squadron	...	**Major G. A. Cox** (designate, **Major A. P. Fielding**)
		W.O.II C. J. Walton (designate, **W.O.II R. J. Isaac**)

SINCE these notes are to be published in the July edition, and it is now the end of May, I am forced to look ahead in order to make the notes topical and newsworthy. I will start, therefore, with some personality changes in the Regiment that are due to take place in the near future, and trust that I am not tempting providence, or more strictly AGII and Records, to change current posting orders.

Personality changes

The first pains of rundown are now being felt as 2 Squadron at Seletar is no more. **Major Keith Watts,** thinking himself redundant, or more probably hoping for a golfing holiday for the remainder of his tour, has now come down to earth with a bump as he finds himself thrust into the chair of Second-in-Command. Whilst this appointment may have its headaches, it does have certain advantages, such as being able to call the C.O. on the intercom and inveigle him away soon after close of play for a game of golf. This invitation is usually met enthusiastically, provided the C.O. is not already booked to play cricket, tennis or shoot, or about to dash off to watch one of our many teams playing in and around the station.

Major Graham Campbell hands over as Second-in-Command after a tour of two and a half years. We wish him and his family good fortune in their next posting in Northern Ireland. We are still not sure why they are sending a Liverpudlian to that part of the world.

The next change will be the departure of O.C. 1 Squadron, **Major Gerry Cox.** He, in fact, is going to Liverpool to a T. & A.V.R. Squadron, and our best wishes and thanks go to him and his family.

Finally, our two senior Warrant Officers leave the Regiment on commissioning—**W.O.I (R.S.M.) Guy Waters** goes to **21st Signal Regiment** and **W.O.I (F. of S.) Neville Armitage** to Hong Kong, as M.T.O. and T.O.T. respectively.

Visits

We appear to be going through a slack period at the moment, but our latest visitor has been the District Commander, **Brigadier D. W. V. P. O'Flaherty, D.S.O.** In the short time that he was with us he was given a presentation on the role of the Regiment; visited Changi Troop and the M.T.; had a quick run through the automatic exchange, and then was completely blinded by science in the Microwave terminal by **Captains Bill Roper** and **John Parkin,** assisted by **Foreman George Yates.**

Sport

Within the Regiment we have held a series of inter-Troop sports, football, sepak-raga and volleyball, with Microwave Troop winning the football and Changi Troop very convincingly winning the other two.

The Regimental football team, coached by **W.O.I Joe Walton,** are going from strength to strength. Football in this Regiment has taken a turn for the better with the influx of some good footballers to the Microwave Troop. The team stands second in Division II of the Singapore League, with good prospects for the winning place at the end of the season, and are unbeaten in the Changi League. Two outstanding players are **Sergeant John Harvey,** with 48 goals to his credit so far this season, and the captain **Sergeant Terry Lowes.** Both are to be congratulated on being selected for the Army side.

The cricket team have put up some good performances, with **Captain Mike Brock** leading the batting averages and **Sergeant 'Slim' Howard** and **Corporal Peter Davies** putting in some good performances with both bat and ball.

The Regimental Motor Rally team, mainly found from our L.A.D., entered three Land Rovers for the KLM Malaysian Motor Rally, a gruelling three-day event covering some 900 miles. Out of 25 entries in the class, all three vehicles finished, our leading team of **Corporal Mick Harrison** and **Driver Bill Appleby** gaining fifth place.

2 Squadron 19th Signal Regiment disbands

By Major K. Watts

End of a 24-year association with R.A.F. Seletar

IT is said that all good things must come to an end, although the truth of this may not always be evident. 2 Squadron, at the time of writing, consists of a Squadron H.Q. and an Airfield Signal Troop at R.A.F. Station Seletar, and Airfield Signal Troops at R.A.F. Stations Tengah and Gan Island. At the time of publication, the 24-year association between 19th Signal Regiment and R.A.F. Station Seletar will have been severed on the disbandment of the Squadron; although Tengah and Gan Troops remain within the Regiment for a further year.

Those members of the Corps, and there must be very many indeed who have served at Seletar, will surely remember that service with affection. The fact that R.A.F. Seletar has itself only a further year of life does not soften the blow; inter-Service co-operation has always been at its best, and the long association an extremely happy one. Alas, all is now ending as part of the British withdrawal from the Far East.

Marking a sad event with an enjoyable occasion

In the Services we tend to mark sad events with enjoyable occasions, and thus it was that on the evening of Saturday, 4th April (with a Sunday morning lie-abed to absorb the hangover) the Squadron held its farewell party—fittingly, in the Squadron compound at Seletar. Due to the importance of the occasion, no effort was spared to make it the success it proved to be, despite the efforts of monsoon weather! 'Credit titles' should go to the organising committee under **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bob Isaac** and to the workers—**Sergeant Frank Worrall, Corporal** and **Mrs. Jim Rennie** and son, **Corporals Anang, Dickie Boyd** and **Leong** and, as they say, others far too numerous to mention.

The programme for the evening included a band complete

IT'S GOODBYE TO ALL THIS . . .
Sad occasions are often marked by enjoyable social functions. So it was with the impending disbandment of 2 Squadron, 19th Signal Regiment, when the Squadron held a successful farewell party. Behind the smiles, however, there was always a touch of sadness . . .

with joget girls, a folk group, a raffle, spot prizes, a magnificent buffet prepared by the Station Catering Staff and, of course, Tiger beer.

Our guests of honour were the Station Commander, **Group Captain A. Maisner, C.B.E., A.F.C.,** and **Mrs. Maisner,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Gilbert** and **Mrs. Betty Gilbert.**

The achievements of the Squadron

A little time was taken from the festivities whilst the Commanding Officer briefly explained the long association of 19th Signal Regiment with R.A.F. Seletar, dating back to 1946. The Squadron Commander, **Major Keith Watts,** then listed the not inconsiderable achievements of the Squadron, both in the spheres of work and sport and not forgetting lighter moments. He spoke of the magnificent amenities which the station provided and which had been used by personnel of the Squadron over the years; the high degree of inter-Service co-operation that existed and the assistance unstintingly given by the R.A.F., and finally presented a Regimental shield to the Station Commander in appreciation of the association.

The Station Commander, in reply, praised the Squadron's technical work, its contribution to all station activities and the high standard of behaviour of its members. He then, to the surprise and pleasure of those present, presented to the Regiment a station shield in recognition of this service.

The occasion ended in the small hours, with the more stalwart hardies singing 'Auld Lang Syne'!

It would perhaps be appropriate to end these notes by thanking those Locally Enlisted Personnel who have served the Squadron so well and faithfully for many years, who are shortly to leave the Corps for civilian life, and to wish them good fortune. Our greetings, and farewell also, to all those who have served in Seletar and are now scattered throughout the Corps in various parts of the world.

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 43

A QUIET month with concentrated training for the athletics and shooting teams going well and promising some trophies over the coming months.

Shooting

A report on the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting appears elsewhere in this issue. The unit team were once again comfortable winners of the champion team trophy.

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT'S CRACK SHOTS
. . . proudly display some of the trophies they won at the Royal Signals Germany Meeting and in the Army Rifle Association Non-Central Matches

Apology

Last month we said we thought we were the first winners of the King Edward VII trophy for Non Central A.R.A. match —it has arrived from Singapore safe and sound and we are delighted to see 2 Wireless Regiment won it two years in succession in 1951 and 1952.

Athletics

Individuals have been showing up well in the competitions they have entered so far. **Lieutenant Terry Cantle** is, as Officer i/c athletics, ensuring the athletes get as much experience as possible by entering meetings run by various organisations in Germany, Holland and Belgium.

An interesting situation could arise for the Laarbruch tug-of-war team. After winning the station competition they represented the station in the RAF Championships and won — becoming the RAF Champions. Next month they hope to win the B.A.O.R. Championships and become Army Champions. The next stage of course is the inter-Services Championships when the RAF Champions pull against the Army Champions —see what I mean?

Carried away by that 50th Anniversary spirit our R.S.M., **W.O.I N. Matthews,** has been steeplechasing. We would like to add that running competitively for the first time in his life, the R.S.M. won the 3,000 metres steeplechase, came second in the 5,000 metres and even turned out (with rather less success) in the 100 metres relay in our Laarbruch station sports.

Farewells

This month saw the departure of **Major Peter Bolton** to take up a P.R. appointment in Hong Kong. **Major Bolton** came to the unit on transfer from the Gordon Highlanders and was presented on departure with a Signals mug to 'mark the successful end to his probation as a Royal Signals Officer!' His figure—all of it—will be missed in H.Q. Squadron and around the wine cellars of Cochem! We wish him and his wife **Rosemary** a happy tour in Hong Kong.

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

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

Visitors

DURING a recent Regimental exercise, 'Round Robin,' the Regiment was privileged to receive a visit in the field from **Brigadier C. J. Codner, M.C.,** the newly appointed D.A. & Q.M.G. 1 (B.R.) Corps. He was interested in the administrative and defensive as well as the communications aspect of our training and was well satisfied with what he saw.

Another distinguished visitor, **Lieutenant-General J. A. T. Sharp, C.B., M.C.,** the new Commander 1 (B.R.) Corps, visited the Regiment in barracks on 1st June. The visit, a lighthearted and pleasant affair, made so by the General's informal and easy manner, started with the presentation of L.S. & G.C. Medals to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bernard Tune** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bill Forrest.** The General then went on to tour the Regiment, and spent considerable time talking to the lads. He expressed great interest in their personal details and pay scales.

Sport

Our sporting activities during May were mainly confined to inter-Troop and Squadron competitions, the most notable of these being the inter-Troop six-a-side 'Page' trophy cricket competition, which was won by the L.A.D. after a very closely fought game against 'F' Troop, 2 Squadron; and the Knowles Cup hockey competition with, this time, victory going to H.Q. Squadron, 2 Squadron being the runners-up.

Corporal 'Geordie' Venus collected individual honours earlier in the year when he won the B.A.O.R. cross-country championships and was placed fourth in the Army competition. He also represented the Army in the inter-Services competition and came in third.

Another individual effort deserving mention was this year's fencing achievement by **Sergeant Maxie Springer.** In spite of the lack of serious competitive training for over two seasons, he managed to reach the semi-finals of the Army championships in the foil, epee and sabre. We confidently expect to see him reach the finals next year.

The Rapier Cup darts competition was won for the second year running by 'The Archers' of 3 Squadron. However, the coveted Wooden Spoon was relinquished by the officers' team, 'The Optimists,' when they were surprisingly beaten by 'The Dregs,' another 3 Squadron team.

Wives' Club news

The Regimental Wives' Club celebrated the Corps' 50th Anniversary with a champagne supper. The main attraction of the evening was a most excellent demonstration of glass blowing. A good time was had by all, including O.C. H.Q. Squadron, **Major Derek Shaw,** who, it is understood, has now joined the Wives' Club.

FAR AWAY PLACES—UNUSUAL JOBS
Reports from the Outposts

Getting around in the Far East

Bangkok in just four months

By Lance-Corporal E. R. Evans
(Harrogate Apprentice September, 1966 - December, 1969)

ON 11th December, 1969, I graduated from the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, along with 52 other tradesmen into the Corps. I graduated as a Lance-Corporal Technician Radio T II, having gained my ACE I and MPC I.

I was granted five weeks' leave, which enabled me to spend Christmas and New Year at home with my parents, before I reported to a snow-bound Catterick on 15th January to prepare for my first posting which I knew to be the Far East.

The 17th January and my journey began, a little tediously though, for I spent all Sunday night and most of Monday morning on trains going from Darlington to Swindon via London.

At Swindon the RAF Movements took over, my case being bundled onto a three-ton truck, and I onto a coach. After a short wait we moved off to Brize Norton where, after a meal, I boarded Flight ASC 2286 for Singapore, with stops at Bahrein and Gan Island.

I was met, after the normal immigration checks, by **Lance-Corporal Hawey,** who I knew from Harrogate, and transported to 18th Signal Regiment, Princess Mary Barracks, Dover Road, Singapore.

Getting acclimatised

The following morning I reported to R.H.Q. for documentation and was posted into 249 Signal Squadron. By lunch time I was almost settled in my new Squadron, doing light office jobs to get 'acclimatised.' I did not really get a good look at Singapore, for in just over a week I was to be moved again! I had been surprised how clean it was, especially around the Dover Road area, but the Kampongs looked really primitive.

However, as I said, I was on the move again (Singapore will have to wait till I return in a couple of months' time); this time I was going to Thailand.

A vacancy for a Radio Tech had come up in 649 Signal Troop, stationed in Bangkok, and I had been chosen to fill it. Early in the morning of 1st February I set off from Singapore in company with **Signalman Jack Ridley,** who was also posted to Bangkok, aboard a train at the start of a journey that was going to take 47 hours and 45 minutes! We crossed the causeway between Singapore and Malaysia then travelled over very flat country for about eight hours, until we pulled into Kuala Lumpur. Most of the journey I occupied myself by reading, as after a while the scenery became boring. We had about six hours to wait at KL before we continued our journey. So after a meal in the NAAFI just outside the station, we wandered around the town close by.

Across the Malay Peninsula to Bangkok

The second leg of our journey took us across the Malay Peninsula to Butterworth. This time, both **Jack Ridley** and myself slept all the way in a comfortable second class sleeper, as the journey was overnight. We were awakened in time for a wash and shave before the train pulled into Butterworth where we immediately changed trains for the last leg of the journey, aboard the Butterworth-Bangkok Golden Arrow Express.

We were both tired of the trip by now, and when we reached Alor Star, the last stop in Malaysia before crossing the border of Thailand, the activity of passport checks, customs and money changing gave us something new to talk about. The Thai money is in units of Bahts, and we spent some time working out the relative values of Bahts to Sterling and Bahts to Singapore Dollars. Some New Zealanders travelling in the same coach as us were doing the same, but using their New Zealand Dollars instead of Sterling, etc.

We crossed the border into Thailand, and as night was again approaching the berths were organised and we turned in.

The White Inn at Bangkok

The following morning, just as we were finishing our breakfasts (fried rice again) we started through the outskirts of Bangkok. By the time I had organised my luggage we were in the station and two-and-a-half hours early. Rather than sit around until transport was sent for us, **Jack** and myself decided

to find a taxi (we had been given the hotel address by the S.S.M. of 649, **W.O.II Gunderson,** who had been in Singapore on a visit when we left). The taxi in fact found us! I have since learned that one cannot put one's head out of a door near a street before at least two taxis are pulling up blowing their horns for a fare. Eventually we arrived at the White Inn where the Signal Troop is billetted. What a change from barrack rooms! The Inn is a small hotel by Bangkok standards, and we live in two-man air-conditioned rooms, each room having its own bathroom and toilet, and maids to make the beds and clean up! There is a swimming pool out front and our meals are served in the Inn's restaurant which, incidentally, has just received the Bangkok Municipality Award for the cleanest restaurant of its kind in Bangkok.

After spending the rest of the day 'sorting myself out' and sleeping, I met the rest of the Troop when they returned from work. Later we all went to the Troop Club on the top floor of the Inn, where duty-free beer and other drinks can be bought.

The following morning I left the White Inn in the Troop Mini 'bus and arrived at our place of work, Tung Mahamek, some 20 minutes later. Here I was briefed on my duties by the Foreman and was very pleased to learn that I was going to work on the last D.C.N. station run by Royal Signals.

The Troop runs regular trips to places of interest over the weekends and so far I have visited Cantanaburi, the site of 'The Bridge On The River Kwai.' Whilst we were at 'the bridge' we took a boat trip, first to visit a War Cemetery (where the number of Signalmen's graves is alarming), then further on down stream to a huge cave wherein stands a large image of Budha, which must have been cast where it stands, as the entrance to the cave is just about man high.

At the ancient capital of Siam

The next trip I made out was to Ayudhy, the ancient capital of Siam (Thailand's former name). This was very interesting, too, for there are the remains of many temples and palaces of the 14th/15th century, some of the great images of Budha now being out in the open. One huge image of Budha reclining is quite famous.

There are many temples of note in the twin cities of Bangkok and Thon Buri, but I have not yet visited them.

Although I know that my stay in Bangkok will come to an end in the latter part of April (you will read more about 649's fate soon), I intend to make good use of the opportunity that has been offered me, and dare to hope that my future service will be as varied and interesting as these first four months. Already I hear murmurs referring to a long exercise in Malaysia starting in May . . .

Exercise 'Hamster's Fortune'

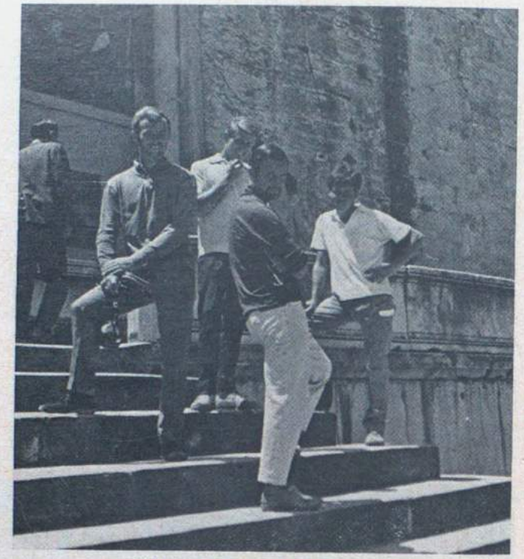
An account of 222 Signal Squadron's expedition to Turkey

Submitted by Captain L. R. J. Tilson, now with 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment. Photos by Signalman Clarke.

ACCORDING to the official report, Exercise 'Hamster's Fortune was designed to '. . . cover a large amount of territory in a relatively short time in order to accustom Military personnel to the varying conditions in the Middle East, and to visit sites of historical, archaeological and religious significance . . .'

And funnily enough, that was just the way that it turned out.

To get from Sharjah to Turkey is easier than one might imagine, due to the regular RAF flights between Muharraq and Akrotiri (Cyprus), on one of which the expedition were able to obtain indulgence passages. From Cyprus, the party consisting of **Lieutenant** (now Captain) **Lee (Skipper) Tilson, Lance-Corporal Ian Pickthall, Lance-Corporal 'Dicky' Bird, Signalman 'Nobby' Clarke** and **Signalman Ian (Bubble) Carr,** flew by civil aircraft to Adana in Southern Turkey arriving in the early evening of 8th June. In order to save time and money, it was decided to travel overnight to Ankara and bus tickets were duly purchased. The plan was to travel throughout on local transport, and to live and eat in local pensions and cafes. Soon we were speeding



HAVING A LOOK AT TURKEY
Four members who took part in 'Hamsters Fortune'. *From left to right:* Lance-Corporal Bird, Lance-Corporal Pickthall, Lieutenant Tilson and Signalman Carr. *Absent:* Signalman 'Nobby' Clarke who took the photograph

off into the night on one of the very efficient inter-city buses. Although always crowded and usually rather grubby by British standards, these buses are very cheap and reasonably comfortable.

The Turkish equivalent of an all-night cafe

In the early hours of the morning the bus drew into the Turkish equivalent of an all-night Transport cafe, and eager to practice our limited knowledge of the Turkish language we carefully rehearsed an order for five bowls of soup, some bread and a glass of tea. To our dismay, we found that not only did our waiter speak perfect English, but that he had also anticipated our order!

Our journey continued across the snowcapped Toros mountains and as dawn broke we were skirting the Tuz Golu, the large central Anatolian salt lake. Arriving in Ankara we quickly found ourselves one modest accommodation at a mere 6/6 per night and set out to explore the city. We were only to be in Ankara for one day but nevertheless were able to visit the imposing Attaturk Mausoleum which overlooks the city and also the beautiful Youth Park.

The bus drivers just put their faith in the Almighty

The following morning found us once more aboard a bus hurtling through the northern mountain range. The bus drivers throughout the country seem to put all their faith in the Almighty and drive flat out at all times, irrespective of road conditions or other vehicles! Arriving at Istanbul in mid-afternoon, we crossed the Bosphorous by ferry to the European side and were once more fortunate in finding excellent, cheap accommodation, That evening, during a quiet stroll around the city, we were approached by a very shady-looking character who offered us black market currency exchange, women and hashish in that order! Needless to say, his offers were politely but firmly refused!

Istanbul—this magnificent city

The next three days were spent exploring the many attractions of Istanbul. This magnificent city contains some most beautiful Mosques, perhaps the most famous being the Sultan Ahmet or 'Blue Mosque,' the only Turkish mosque with six minarets and with an interior entirely decorated with blue enamelled tiles, intricately patterned. One afternoon was spent visiting the Topkapi museum, surely one of the richest in the world, which is housed in the buildings and grounds of the old Sultan's palace, and which has on view a priceless collection of jewellery, costumes and other relics of Turkish history.

A ferry trip up the Bosphorus was also made, stopping for a lunch of fresh-caught fish at a waterfront restaurant. We were allowed only as far as the entrance to the Black Sea as beyond that point is a strictly controlled military zone.

Our evening entertainment in Istanbul usually consisted of a few glasses of beer and an animated conversation with the staff of our hotel. The manager of this establishment was a splendid fellow called Mustapha, who was a giant of a man with a bushy black moustache who spent most of his time roaring instructions to a little chap called Doktor; a sort of good-natured half-wit, who fetched and carried for him!

The next leg of our journey took us by train to Afyon, travelling second class on Turkish Railways. The train rattled and bumped its way slowly out of Istanbul and along the coast of the sea of Maramara, stopping frequently to disgorge and refill! At each stop we were besieged by sellers of fruit, sweets and drinks who normally travelled as far as the next stop and caught the next train back. We journeyed all day across plains and then through mountain passes, seeing some magnificent scenery and marvelling at the engineering feat which had been achieved to construct such a railway. Darkness fell, and still we rattled on, so arranging ourselves sardine-fashion across the compartment we snatched a few hours' sleep. We finally arrived at Afyon after 16 hours on the train having travelled at an average speed of 17½ miles per hour!

A Walt Disney-type fairy castle

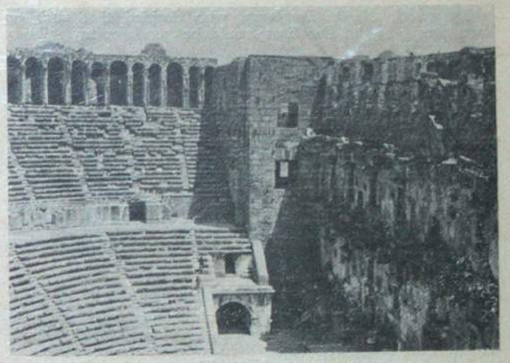
We booked in here at our cheapest hotel yet—3/- per night—and once more went off exploring. The main feature of this little town was a tall pinnacle of rock which rose straight up from the centre of the residential area, on top of which was perched a 'Walt Disney-type' fairytale castle. It was unanimously decided that we would scale the pinnacle and visit the castle. Several hours later five, now bearded, dishevelled, and totally exhausted travellers returned to the foot of the pinnacle having reached the base of the castle walls but not having been able to find a way inside. (We later learned that the approach from the opposite side was far less steep, and led straight to the castle gate).

Due to the inadequacy of our bus engine to perform even the simplest motions in the morning we were late getting away, and eventually had to travel on a very crowded bus which necessitated us taking it in turns to stand up all the way to Antalya. However, we were cheered on our arrival to find a very clean hotel, complete with shower and (oh joy), a European-type toilet.

At Antalya

We spent two days in Antalya, one exploring the narrow streets of the old town and one on a formal sight-seeing trip to nearby ruins. From an historical point of view this was a most worthwhile trip. We visited the old Roman city of Perge which still retains a column-lined street with paved road in which the ruts worn by countless chariots are clearly visible. Also we saw the magnificent amphitheatre of Aspendos, which is still used today, and finally the ruins and museum of Side which contain some priceless statues dating back to the 2nd century A.D. Our guide during this particular trip was an English-speaking Turkish student, who insisted that we met him and his friends later that evening in Antalya. As a result, that evening found us sitting on a wall overlooking the harbour with half-a-dozen Turkish students taking it in turn to sing national folk songs with the aid of a guitar!

A short journey of only two hours took us on to Alanya, a small very picturesque town on the southern coast, overlooked by a huge pirate castle standing on a cliff which juts out into the sea. We noticed on our arrival that a vast number of national flags were on display from every home and shop, from which we deduced that we had arrived on some national day. Awakening however the following morning to the sound of a brass band and cheering we soon learned the real reason. The President of Turkey was making a one-day official visit to the town. Escorted by two battleships his own craft sailed into the bay and with a huge police escort he and his party drove through the streets to his rather exclusive hotel, some distance away from our modest pension!



TREADING IN HISTORY'S FOOTSTEPS . . .
The magnificent Roman theatre as Aspendos, near Alanya, which the party visited, and which is still in use to-day

Seeing the sights with the President

Whilst in Alanya we were able to visit the Dalmatas Cave, famous for its stalagtites and mites and also its curative properties for asthmatics, and also the pirate castle. Whilst exploring the castle ruins we were joined, amid sirens and screeching tyres, by the President himself, who was also 'doing the sights.' With what appeared to us to be an alarming lack of security, he and his entourage strolled around the ruins only a few yards behind us.

At one point along the castle walls is a small platform from which offending prisoners were hurled to their death on the rocks some 400 feet below; however, a chance of reprieve was offered should they be able to cast a stone from the platform so that it fell into the sea. We tried for some time to achieve this, without success, and so it was with a certain amount of smug satisfaction that we watched the President also fail to manage it!

Whilst in Alanya we hired the services of a local fishing boat to explore the many caves at the base of the cliff. **Signalman 'Nobby' Clarke** excelled himself as helmsman, despite many an anxious look from his passengers. Later that evening **Lance-Corporal 'Dicky' Bird** also took his courage in both hands and accepted the offer from a group of friendly Turks to join them in a smoke—from a hubble bubble pipe! He managed well, however, winning admiration from both his companions and his hosts.

Fifteen hundred miles in sixteen days

The final stage of our journey took us further east along the coast and then inland and back to Adana, where after a day of souvenir shopping we once more boarded our aircraft and began the return journey to Sharjah. In all we had covered some 1,500 miles through Turkey in 16 days. We had seen some wonderful sights, and met some splendid people. The Turks, we are convinced, are some of the friendliest and easiest going people on earth. We had eaten some very unusual food, from various types of kebap to stuffed eggplant, and drunk drinks ranging from Turkish coffee to sour goat's milk. It probably cost us each about £25 out of our own pocket, but as far as we are all concerned it would be cheap at twice the price.

With The Queen's Own Hussars in West Malaysia

By Second-Lieutenant E. C. T. Crampton

FOR an officer to be commissioned into the Royal Signals and then almost immediately to be attached to a Cavalry Squadron, may be considered a little unusual. Nevertheless, this is what happened to me, due to the efforts of the Second-

in-Command, **Major Treglown,** who decided that such an introduction to the Far East would be good for my military education.

Some skill required

On 21st April I reported for duty to the O.C. of 'A' Squadron of the Q.O.H., who live just down the road from us, and two hours later I was travelling north to the Asahan ranges for their annual live firing. The Q.O.H. are equipped with Ferrets and Saracens, but unfortunately I was not able to fire the main armament, as there was the usual shortage of ammunition; however, I did fire the Browning machine-gun, which required more skill than I at first imagined. The firing lasted a week, during which time I undertook a variety of Squadron jobs.

Command of an Assault Troop

We then moved north into the rubber plantation about 50 miles north of Kuala Lumpur where I was made O.C. Assault Troop. This is a large Troop used to assist the remainder of the Squadron in close-quarter battle. This was a very interesting week and included more live firing on jungle ranges. Needless to say the Troopers thought it a bit strange having a Royal Signals officer instructing them in important tactics but after being invited to fire the weapons myself and scoring a possible with an Armalite, which I had never seen before, I was accepted without further comments!

Acting as enemy

The third week was devoted to further tactical training with the emphasis on Squadron training in an I.S. situation. This time I was employed as the enemy and had great delight in forcing the vehicle-borne cavalry to take to their feet and chase me through the jungle for several miles before they eventually caught me. Needless to say they were not very happy and I paid the price by being subjected to some fairly rough but good-humoured treatment.

Quite a few qualifications

In those three weeks I think I qualified as a fully-fledged terrorist, jungle marksman, nearly a B1 gunner (AFV), not to mention B1 Radio Op. Which pay band this would put me in I am not quite sure!

The next step, the Second-in-Command tells me, is a six weeks' course at the Jungle Warfare School after which I just might be allowed near my first Royal Signals Troop.

Getting a sun-tan in British Honduras

'C' Troop of 244 Signal Squadron all volunteer for it—But things were not just as they thought!

There was a tough job ahead

The story is told by Lance-Corporal Randell of 244 Signal Squadron

HOW would you like a couple of weeks in the sun, coming just right to brush up on your sun-tan ready for the holidays?

This was how we were approached when asked if we would like to volunteer for 'Charlie' Troop's Detachment to British Honduras. The old saying 'never volunteer for anything' was forgotten by everybody in the Troop, who all wanted to go to the Caribbean. So when the time came to go, there we were, one Sergeant and seven men, all packed and ready for our holiday!

A beer on 'Uncle Sam'

We left R.A.F. Lyneham at 11.00 hours, 29th January, all smiles, and had been promised an overnight stay in Bermuda. Nobody warned us what to expect out there, the hotel was all right, the food was marvellous—if you could understand the menu.

But like all good linemen, we nearly broke down and cried in the bar . . . beer, 7s. 6d. . . . just for a small bottle. But we managed to survive the night after a friendly American slipped our Troop Sergeant 10 dollars and said buy the lads a beer.

Up bright and early next day, ready for the rest of our journey, six hours after taking off, we landed at Belize Airport—we were in British Honduras at last.

The nightmare journey

We were met at the airport by **Y. of S. Cudlip** and a detachment from 633 Signal Troop and driven to our 'holiday camp.' What a nightmare journey that was—40 m.p.h. down roads no better than farm tracks; too many pot holes to count, and this was the best road in the country. What could the worst ones be like?

After a weekend off to settle in, we reported for work, to find out exactly what our job entailed. Trenches—the lineman's nightmare—"Not much," said our Sergeant. "Shouldn't take us long, only about three miles altogether." Anyway, it was no use standing around, so we got stuck into the job, digging our trenches right across the sports field.

"Make sure you put the turf back, and to finish the job off properly, sweep the grass afterwards." If you could have seen us you would have thought it was a charladies' convention instead of linemen working.

We reached our first real obstacle on the third day—a small stream, only about four feet wide. Some bright spark suggested digging a trench two feet under it, but don't let the water in!

A quick look round the M.P.B.W. yard soon solved our problem—a piece of scaffolding buried into the bank at each end and the cable running through it.

We get bogged down

After this, work continued at great speed, with **Corporal 'Jock' Henderson,** R.A.O.C., cleaning the way for us with his Michigan; but the gods must have been against us, the Michigan got bogged down, mud up past its axles, so we started digging it out whilst 'Jock' went for the R.E.M.E. to tow him out. Who could have forseen what happened next. The R.E.M.E. duly arrived with their Michigan and a tow rope; they parked on a firm piece of ground (or so they thought) attached the rope and proceeded to try to pull us out. But alas, we had to dig the second vehicle out, as this one got bogged down as well. With the help of a local hunter, we cut bushes and trees down and placed them around the wheels and managed to push and tow both vehicles out.

Our tans begin to show

Work commenced again, but not for long. We had come across our next obstacle, a road—well, that's what we were told it was—but it had no kerbstones or tarmac, just mud. But with two telegraph poles we had scrounged off Cable & Wireless, we were soon across. By now, the work was beginning to tell, everyone had blisters on their hands—even the Troop Sergeant, someone had remarked, had picked his shovel up at least once. With that beautiful sunshine every day, our tans were beginning to show we were no bronze idols, but more like Irish navvies, brown from the waist down and like the after in a soup commercial from the waist down.

More problems ahead, through another road; this one in the process of being built. More mud again, but this time an attempt was being made to put a proper surface on top. This was easy—or so we thought—another two poles and we were laughing; so up went the poles; along came the surveyor for the road; down came poles again, and after two days' arguing with the surveyor and Government House and **Captain Giles,** O.C. of 633 Signal Troop, we were finally allowed to dig a trench across their new road and put our cables through a duct.

There was only a further 200 yards to go . . . but . . .

What a pleasant surprise, or so we thought, when we were told only another 200 yards to go and then no more digging trenches. What they didn't tell us was that we had to dig pole holes instead, and after that there were more trenches to dig.

Recuperating!

By the end of the third week we had finished our first lay—two and a quarter miles of cable in and working—not bad, only another three quarters of a mile to lay, so after a couple of days off to recuperate from work and one all-night party, the second lay was commenced.

We hadn't gone ten yards before we were confronted with our first problem—another road, not like the others, but built by the Sappers to last, tarmac and nearly 3ft. of hardcore. It nearly killed us when we had to dig through it. After this the going was good. Lucky the C.O. was on leave when we went through his cricket pitch; he wouldn't have liked it, but we did it. Straight through the perimeter fence, across a swamp, going great; nothing can stop us now!

Spiders as big as your hand

Wrong again! "Who's going to volunteer to crawl 250 yards through a 3ft. high monsoon drain?" was the next call. Well, by this time the 'married pads' were pining for their wives, so one of them, **Signalman Lofty Rankin,** volunteered. Next day, armed with a torch and a rope he set off. It couldn't have been more than five minutes later when he was back with reports of spiders as big as his hand; I'm not going down there again! Work halted.

Never mind, two days later, fearless **Captain French,** R.A.M.C., with a few beers bet on it, and the promise of a bottle of Scotch, set off and managed to get through with no trouble at all.

The end was in sight—less than a quarter of a mile to go. It didn't take us long to finish the last stretch, and within six weeks of starting, we were back at the airport ready to send the 'pads' home, while the single lads stayed behind to finish off and do a few odd jobs for the Troop.

After a very busy time with work and entertainment, we were glad to arrive back in England on 4th April, after another stop in Bermuda for a rest.

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

6 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron, (206) Barnard Castle

O.C.	**Major T. H. Wheawell**
2 i/c	**Captain J. J. Cullen**
Admin. Officer	**Captain L. R. N. Rickards** (R. Irish)
Comms. Officer	**Captain N. A. Horler**
'A' Troop ...	**Lieutenant P. A. Cooper**
	Second-Lieutenant C. P. B. Smith
'B' Troop ...	**Second-Lieutenant A. McVittie**
Q.M.	**Major T. H. Cole, M.B.E.,** (Q.R.I.H.)
M.T.O. ...	**Captain R. A. Marshall, B.E.M.** (R.C.T.)
R.S.M.	**W.O.I H. W. L. Cage**
R.Q.M.S. ...	**W.O.II E. Bailey**
LA.D.	**W.O.I B. K. Ribton** (R.E.M.E.)

Shooting

At the 6 Brigade Skill at Arms Meeting, held in mid-May, the Squadron were outright winners of the Brigade SMG and the open invitation GPMG competitions. The SLR team were the best minor unit in the ETR invitation match. Much of the credit for this success is due to **Captain R. A. Marshall, B.E.M.,** the Shooting Captain, **Colour-Sergeant Gay,** (D.W.R.) and **Sergeant Isgar** (R.P.C.). The GPMG team deserve a special mention, as the team consisted of eight members of the R.P.C. Defence and Employment Platoon. The Squadron have been particularly lucky in having this Platoon attached during the period in Barnard Castle. Unfortunately their association with the Squadron is to end when we return to B.A.O.R. later this year.

LOOK WHAT WE HAVE WON!

Four members of the winning S.M.G. team which won the Brigade S.M.G. competition:

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Crawford, R.E.M.E., Corporal MacNair, Corporal Martin and Sergeant White, R.A.O.C.

Sport

The soccer team is leading in the Northumbrian District Summer Soccer League, having won five matches of the six played. Recent results include victories of 7—3 and 11—1 over teams from 24th Signal Regiment and 11th Signal Regiment.

The cricket team was featured in both the *Northern Echo* and the *Daily Mirror* after their 10-wicket win in the opening match of the season against 4 Field Ambulance at Catterick. Our opponents scored six runs without the loss of a wicket, and then all ten batsmen were dismissed without addition to the total. Since then we have won our way through to the semi-final of the Northern Command section of the Army Cup, having defeated 24th Signal Regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. In the latter game the Squadron scored 157 in the 35 overs permitted and then dismissed the D.E.R.R. for 97 runs. **Signalman David Taylor** scored 84 and then took 5 wickets for 12 with his spin bowling. With the Brigade Commander, **Brigadier J. M. H. Roberts, O.B.E.,** opening the batting, and **Sergeant Mannion** and **Private Grieg,** both R.A.O.C., to open the bowling, we are hoping to have a successful season.

7 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

DURING the last month, there have been the inevitable number of postings in and out, to the extent that on his recent Squadron Conference, the O.C. found there had been about a 30 per cent turnover of key personnel in a fortnight. To the newcomers, we bid welcome to Soltau, and to those departed, all the best, wherever they may be.

On the exercise front, the Squadron took part in the first Brigade CPX of the year. This was under completely new management, both in the Headquarters and the Squadron. We found two moves a night gave the Recce Group a harassing time.

In the sporting sphere we showed 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment how to play cricket by beating them—137 for 5 declared, against 133 all out. **Captain Mike Newby** scored 73 not out and took five wickets.

We held our own sports day in preparation for winning the Morrison Cup Minor Units (11 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron please note!). The **Escott family** topped and tailed the 5,000 metres, with **Sergeant Harry Escott** winning and his 11-year-old son, Melvin, valiantly completing the course. **Sergeant Escott** also took our cross-country team to an invitation meeting in the Black Forest during April. Competing were teams from the U.S. 7th Army, the French Army, and the U.S. Air Force. The course was four laps for 2.3 km. of very rough country in the area of Ostenheim. Overall, the Squadron came second—a creditable performance.

We conclude these notes with a short article by **Lance-Corporal Duncan Thomson** on AFV 432 flotation.

Floating down the Weser

When I started training as a telegraph operator at Harrogate, I little expected it to lead to driving a 15-ton armoured vehicle 'swimming' across the Weser. After a few days' preparation in barracks, where we checked that the door and hatches really were water-tight and the flotation screens had no holes in them, we left for Ohr Park, on the Weser, on Whit Sunday. We listened, awestruck, as our two instructors, **Corporal Derek Owen** and **Corporal Phil Davis** introduced us to the gentle arts of using tracks as paddles and the other chap as one's eyes. 'Swimming' in a 432 demands complete mutual trust between the driver and commander, for the driver can see nothing and the commander must be able to feel the speed of the vehicle and current and correctly judge the angle of approach to the far bank, to enable the 432 to climb out of the water.

OPERATION IN TWO PARTS
GOING IN . .

. . COMING OUT

Having had a few demonstration crossings and almost reaching Minden by mistake, we all had a go. There were one or two overshoots to start with and a few lost tracks, but nobody reached Minden, and by Wednesday we were so skilled that we managed over 100 crossings of the Weser in one afternoon.

We returned to Soltau bronzed and fit, for it is hard work, so if any trainee telegraph operators are particularly depressed with the progress tests and feel they would like to be a lighterman, press on and be both!

242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh

'Ace High,' Mormond Hill, Aberdeenshire, Detachment

AT the end of April, we at the NATO Forward Scatter Site, Mormand Hill, said farewell to the last two remaining R.A.F. technicians. The station is now 100 per cent Royal Corps of Signals. However, in the near future we are to lose a few of them. **Corporal Bob Hall** is going to Catterick on his T.I.; **Signalman Ted Noseley** and **Sergeant Leitch** are both getting demob happy; **Sergeant Hill** is also pending decision.

That pay rise

Since the new pay rise, **Sergeant Gerry Lowdon** and **Corporal** West travel to work in their own cars in preference to a Land Rover minibus—it appears the bumps hurt their bottoms! Those of us with more sense than money are amused and wonder if the stress on the haunches is directly proportional to the size of the wallet? Do the old soldiers find this a sign of the times!

Corporal Terry Beard has just spent a relaxing week in hospital at R.A.F. Buchan with a bruised leg after diving at the post instead of the ball whilst playing in goal for the R.A.F. Buchan football team. He tells us the nurses at the hospital know their job!

We would like to congratulate **Corporal Dave Fisher,** who has just got married (Shetlands don't have a monopoly on local marriage), and **Sergeant Pearson** who became a Dad at the end of last month.

We also extend our good wishes to **Corporal Geoff Bell,** who is due to get married next month . . . poor chap!

Joining the Gods

'Ace High' is a temple to one of the newer religions of the Army, or so says **G. Bell,** who described himself as "attendant priest, Temple of Ace High, Mormond Hill."

Five miles south of Frazerburgh stands the 750ft. bulk of Mormond Hill. Any motorist driving to Frazerburgh can see four great round dishes standing on top. It is thought in the area that this is some technical establishment run by the government. However, as people working up here well know, it is a 'temple to one of the newer religions of the Army,' known as 'Ace High.'

At the end of my priesthood training, called, inexplicably, a 'T2,' the powers-that-be, after much soul-searching, decided to send me to serve my master, the great god 'Tel-y-commns' at Mormond Hill.

As I was conveyed up the hill in the holy barge, which bears the name 'Lan-Drover,' I saw for myself the great dishes. Not being sure what they were, I kept silent, hoping that I might learn the mysteries of the temple without revealing my ignorance. It was with great trepidation that I passed through the gates and past the blue-uniformed temple guard.

On arrival, I was summoned before the High Priest Nor-ton in his Holy of Holies, called, for some reason, F.O.S. Office. He told me of the great mysteries to be unveiled before me and threatened to invoke the power of the gods if I transgressed.

After this I was conducted around the temple and was shown the gods themselves. The greatest and most powerful of these was the god 'Amp' and his companion 'Rec.' These gods, it was said, could see and tell of things outside the plains of mere mortals. It was for this reason that they were known as O/H or Over Horizon, as a tribute to their powers.

The next few days were spent in meditating the words of the holy manuscripts or in watching the more learned priests doing their various duties, until at last came the day when I was allowed to conduct the morning ceremony of obedience and worship, known as the 'on watch inspection and daily reading.'

This involved visiting each of the grey, forbidding-looking gods and ensuring that they were well and happy. Failure to do this brings down upon us the wrath of the gods in the form of 'Circuit Outages' and 'Faults.' If this happens, we must make confession in the 'Daily Outage Report,' which is despatched to the High Priests who, in turn, deliver their dreaded judgment.

As more scriptures were made available and the other priests educated me, I was allowed to play a greater part in the daily worship.

We have several ceremonies, of which I have already explained one. The second ceremony is performed once a week and is called 'Mane-Tay-Nance.' This ceremony is more complicated and more solemn than the daily one, but pales beside the greatest ritual of all.

This takes place every three months, symbolically to represent the seasons, and requires the participation of all the priests. As no name is holy enough, it is known as the 'Three Monthly,' and during it all the priests are set to do tasks for the comfort of the gods. Sacrifices are made to any dissatisfied god in the form of valves and mystromes, which are fed to the god with reckless abandon.

At the moment, I am of the lowly 'Attendant' class of priest, but I shall aspire, one day, after study and meditation, to the status of 'Technician' priest, who becomes a personal servant to one of the gods. His prime task in life is to keep his god content and to supervise the attendant priests, who also bear the name 'fingers' (hence the name 'finger trouble').

I am now one of the initiated who know that the great dishes on the hill are not new-fangled antennae, but great monuments to the gods who dwell within the temple.

I have still much to learn of the mysteries, but hope, one day, to reach that happy state of bliss which comes to each Technician Priest when the last mysteries are unveiled-Until that day, I will continue my studies safe in the hands of the High Priest Nor-ton and his deputies, Jonel-Each Ka-Vanah and Low-Don.

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244 Signal Squadron
(Air Support)
Tangmere, Sussex

WE must apologise for our absence from THE WIRE; there can be no excuse except that around the 6th of the month, when the notes are due, all minds seem to go completely blank! Needless to say, exercises have been to the fore during the past three months.

'Arctic Express' saw detachments away in Norway in their 'zebra striped' vehicles, whilst Salisbury Plain was visited again to practise the craft of concealment as well as communication.

Having recently celebrated our first anniversary, may we remind our readers (if any) of some of our staff:

O.C.	**Major W. D. A. Poole**
Second-in-Command	**Captain W. A. Price**
Administration	**Captain M. J. P. Giles**
O.C. 'A' Troop	**Captain M. Yolland**
O.C. 'B' Troop	**Lieutenant O. M. Lewis**
O.C. 'C' Troop	**Lieutenant L. Hood**
O.C. 'E' Troop	**Lieutenant A. A. Vaigncourt-Strallen**
T.O.T.	**Captain (T.O.T.) D. D. Clarke**
Second-in-Command 'A' Troop	**Second-Lieutenant M. Emslie**
S.S.M.	**W.O.II Brewer**
R.Q.M.S.	**W.O.II Bunston**
F. of S.	**W.O.II Manwaring**
Chief Clerk	**Staff Sergeant Barlow**

Like Topsy we keep on growing and by September will be over 200-strong.

Our annual six-a-side soccer competition was held on Wednesday, 13th May, when 16 teams from the Squadron took part.

The whole afternoon was extremely well organised by **Sergeant 'Wally' Lockwood** and a wonderful competition ended in the final between 'A' and 'B' Troop. Like a schoolboys' magazine story, the result had to be decided by penalty taking from which 'B' Troop emerged winners to receive their well-merited prizes and a handsome silver cup, donated by **Captain Giles,** shortly to leave us for the banking world.

New arrivals to the Squadron include **Lieutenants Hood** and **Elford, Staff Sergeant Philemon** and **Sergeants Whiteley, Neillings** and **Pond.**

Corporal Wilson, B Troop (winners of 6-a-side soccer) receives trophy from wife of Squadron Commander
Sergeant Lockwood, tournament organiser looks on

Sampling the delights of Singapore

Our newly formed 'Bravo' Troop deployed to Crowborough and South Cerney as part of the run-up towards taking over from their Air Force counterparts. Planning for the exercise in the Far East is now well under way and already two detachments have taken to the air, and are now sampling the delights of Singapore. The main body of the Squadron are due to depart in mid-May amidst a welter of inoculations and jungle-green uniforms.

Not to be outdone by all other units, it is reported that we too have had an annual F.F.R. inspection. The tranquility(?) of Tangmere was rudely disturbed by the arrival of an army of specialists to look at our vehicles, arms, documents, radio kit and even the line troop stores, which now spouts some superbly numbered racking, to house its junk! Finally, **Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** C.S.O. 3 Division, visited to run the rule over. As he left he was smiling!

48 Gurkha Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron (246), B.F.P.O. 1

Fully committed

HONG KONG in 1970 is a reasonably trouble-free place to live in, with only the odd incident on the border. Nevertheless, the Squadron remains fully committed. **Captain (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung** and his Troop keep our Brigade Command net functioning and our Staff Officers on wheels and in communcaton. **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Shyamlal Gurung** and his men run the comcen and keep a constant check on the border telephone line, whilst **Lieutenant John Stokoe** keeps the Gurkha Battalions supplied with their rear-link Troops. Of course, we also embrace all the other facets of an integrated Squadron. Our M.T.O./T.C.O. looks after all unit transport requirements and Staff Troop do their best to keep Brigade H.Q. from disappearing under mounds of paper work. Last, but not least, is our Defence Platoon, supplied by 6 GR and commanded by **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Indradhoj Gurung.**

At a moment's notice

Despite our daily routine work, being a naturally helpful Squadron, various elements of it are continually disappearing to perform various tasks. The new season of B.A.M.A. rallies has started, for which we provide the check point communications, as well as entering team and individual competitions. **Lieutenant John Stokoe** and the majority of the radio element of the Squadron have just returned from providing control communications for the Gurkha Engineers on one of their exercises. The exercise covered most of the new Territories of Hong Kong and gave many of our soldiers an insight into Sapper activities. Our P.A. equipment is on constant demand for demonstrations and displays and is usually erected at a moment's notice, because the staff never tell us that they require it until the day the event is to take place!

The whole Squadron was once again torn apart to provide control communications and controllers for Exercise 'Muji Kas II (I won't tell you the translation in case any ladies are reading this). 'MK II' was basically an Infantry Platoon exercise, with the platoons from the Gurkha Battalions completing a circuit involving day and night tactical tasks. **Captain Mike Walker,** our golf-playing Second-in-Command, set up a control headquarters on top of a windy mountain, with amenities comparable to the Hong Kong Hilton!

Rum and Kukris

At this time of the year visitors pour into Hong Kong in droves. This also applies to military visitors. A fortnight ago one Major-General and nine Colonels of the Swiss Signal Corps, on their way to Expo '70 in Osaka dropped in for a chat! We showed them around the Squadron and gave a few demonstrations for their benefit. They all expressed tremendous interest in what they saw, and one Colonel was highly delighted when **Sergeant Bartaman Limbu** started speaking to him in German. **Sergeant Bartaman** visited Germany with 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron. Your guess is as good as mine as to where he actually learnt his German! Their visit terminated with a trip to the Rebroacast Site, where they were met by **Captain (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur Gurung** with pint glasses of tea laced with rum. They departed muttering about Gurkha rum and kukries!

The Squadron sporting life is as full as ever; even more so with the addition of water polo. Our O.C., **Major Tom Livingstone** is our exponent of the art and is playing as hard as ever, despite his vows last year never to play again! At the moment the Brigade H.Q. team is top of the league, beating 656 Aviation Squadron 22—0 and 252 Signal Squadron 20—2. Many of the younger members of the Squadron have shown interest and are quite promising young players. Our Football Officer, **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Pete Harris,** will have to think again!

Departures

Since the last notes **Lieutenant Ashley Truluck** has gone to Dharan, in Nepal, to become the M.T.O. and Signal Officer at the Gurkha L. of C. One of his responsibilities is detailing elephants for the Brigadier's tiger hunts! (Tiger—animal, not beer!). **Sergeant Keith Childs** leaves us on promotion to Staff Sergeant and takes up appointment as S.Q.M.S. with 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron in Singapore. **Corporal Andy Boyle** is now in Dharan as Acting Sergeant on a short detachment, but nevertheless, the Squadron still functions without him. Our S.Q.G.O., **Captain (Q.G.O.) Balbahadur Tamang,** left for Nepal on retirement after a tremendous farewell party for him in the Q.G.O.s' and Sergeants' Messes.

Captain (Q.G.O.) Bhupal Gurung arrived from 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment in Malaysia to become our new S.Q.G.O. We have a new Adjutant, in the shape of **Captain 'Ginger' Cockroft,** who was previously R.S.M. of 99 Gurkha Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. He still sports a magnificent moustache, although it is now worn in the modified, Mark II version! One welcome arrival has been **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Gordon Howie.** He was R.Q.M.S. with the Regiment and came to us on promotion. Many congratulations to him. It is good to have a Gurkha Signals R.S.M. with us, and one who also plays squash and hockey!

We eagerly await the arrival of a brand new subaltern from Malaysia. Maybe he can write the next set of notes!

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This is Ron Cathcart. 33. Married with five children and, until recently, a telecommunications instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Feeling the need for the more settled domestic life that 'civvy street' offered, Ron left the RCS after many enjoyable years and, eight months ago joined Michelin Tyre Company on an 'open' basis, after passing through the Company's selection procedure; Ron's qualities were assessed and he was helped to choose a suitable career. He is at present undergoing training for a post as a production supervisor at the Stoke factory.

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(This Army man did)

MICHELIN IS WHERE THE CAREER JOBS ARE

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)

THIS month we feature the stalwarts of S.H.Q., the Q.M. Department and Episkopi M.T., collectively known to our detachments as the 'blunt end.'

S.H.Q.

Under the benevolent eyes of our Second-in-Command, **Captain R. E. Barber,** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. Kelly,** we are, of course, responsible for the control and co-ordination of all administrative and discipline questions affecting the whole of the Squadron's activities. With detachments spread over the length and breadth of Cyprus, the amount of correspondence and the telephoning that has to be done can be imagined.

We have just said farewell to our Chief Clerk, **Sergeant Vockings,** and until the arrival of his relief, **Sergeant Bowman** (ex-644 Signal Troop) the fort is being ably held by **Corporal Claypole,** assisted by **Lance-Corporals Hoyle** and **Massingham.** Our cheerful Post N.C.O., **Lance-Corporal Gay,** completes the Orderly Room uniformed quartet, but it would be impossible to get anything done—least of all these WIRE notes, if we forgot to mention our one and only UKLE typist, 'Annie' Clemenson, who will also be leaving us soon on return to U.K.

Q.M. Department

Lance-Corporal D. N. G. Rogers was passing the living accommodation recently when he spotted a tiny tortoise emerging from the ground, and as it was clearly not properly accounted for, he took it on charge. Apparently tortoises lay eggs in the sand, and he happened along as the fully-fledged monster emerged. It now lives in landscaped splendour on the top of a large table in the Q.M. Compound. If any of you erstwhile gardeners think that weeds grow anywhere, come and try growing some on the tortoise patch, we can't. We were told it was a she—not that the 'Q' Staff have forgotten the difference between males and females—but tortoises have a fair old 'Maxi' covering the identification parts. Fortunately, the O.C., **Major Anderson,** has had considerable experience of slow-moving creatures, and he put us wise. **S.Q.M.S. Maidment** attends to the tables and socks side, with a little bit of this from the R.A.F. and a little bit of that from the Army.

Sergeant Percival throws his weight around on the end of a chain to some purpose (hammer, of course) and recently won a nice collection of silver in the Royal Signals (Cyprus) and NEARELF Minor Units Athletics Meetings. He also throws the occasional crumb to the wolves hammering at the door saying 'gimme my spares.' He is assisted in this by **Corporal Hughes,** who has been trained to accept technicians as nearly normal people. Our junior member, **Signalman Burns,** 50 per cent of the Signalman strength of the unit, is flexing his muscles in anticipation of an A.I.P.T. Course. (We've got to be ready, they may break the door down one day). "Back, you dogs, or we'll turn the tortoise on you."

M.T.

Ably led by our M.T. N.C.O., **Lance-Corporal Snowdin,** our drivers, **Lance-Corporal Sinclair** and **Signalman Lilley** drive many thousands of miles, at all hours, assisting with the task of administering and delivering spares to the far-flung outposts of our empire. These two took part in the recent B.A.M.A. driving championships. They were unfortunately not placed among the leading lights, but at least succeeded in keeping their vehicles in one piece, unlike some other competitors. They have also survived this year's U.E.E. vehicle inspection, only to be told that the NEARELF inspection programme for 1970/71 has been altered, and they've got to do it all again in August. As **Lilley** was heard to say—"there's never a dull moment"—but at least he's had some U.K. leave recently. Both **Lance-Corporals Snowdin** and **Sinclair** are due to leave us before very long, but we're told that there are lots more drivers being posted in to replace them. What is it that makes us such optimists?

FARAWAY PLACES ! — UNUSUAL JOBS !
SEND US THAT STORY

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus) B.F.P.O. 53

Known to the masses as a Forward Scatter Station, we have a semi-independent detachment which lives on its own private plot of land in the extreme south-east corner of the island—Cape Greco. Little is known of this remote group, except for a marked affinity for the fleshpots of Famagusta, and a laudable habit of supplying gladiators for Squadron shooting, soccer and cricket teams. This month to demonstrate their literary ability they have taken over the complete column to record a tale of adventure.

Assault on the south face!

LIVING in the shadow of a limestone 'massif' we here at F.S.S. Cape Greco had successfully ignored it for some time when an I.S. exercise rubbed home the fact that since it dominated the station it should be secured. A quick check of the inventory revealed that the Station Commander had signed for its summit when taking over the station (Oh, that retained site!) so two sandbagged defence posts were constructed thereone. Like many other peaks Mount Greco, as it came to be known, has two ways to the top—one easy and one difficult. The easy north face was used when constructing and inspecting the defence posts but the other approach had yet to be conquered.

The Station Staff volunteered

Never ones to refuse a challenge the station staff volunteered to a man after **Sergeant Mike Smith** reminded them that next month's duty roster had not yet been finalised. Lots were drawn and a team selected. Since **Lance-Corporal Tom Crabtree's** was the hat used to pick both the mountaineering squad and the station bootball team (which won the 9th Signal Regiment Troop League, let it be known) it was no surprise to note a distinct similarity between the two. Something to do with programming, the Foreman says.

In their freshly aired D.M.S. boots!

Stumbling across the desperately even terrain in their freshly aired D.M.S. boots the party battled with five foot high thistles, three foot high sheep and a mounting thirst. Finally they arrived at the foot of the escarpement and set up the base camp. The site was chosen after careful consideration of the altitude, terrain, temperature and **Sergeant Steve Harrison's** refusal to "carry all that beer up that cliff."

The organisation of the base camp was left in the hands of the defence—who better?—and goalkeeper **'Bing' Crosby** and **Sergeants Jim McCormack** and **Trevor McCarthy** started sorting out the Tennants from the Double Diamonds and cacheing them under cairns to protect them from the marauding Touristticae Rosae—or 'Dreaded Sunburnt Tourists.'

X lbs. of potential F.o.S.

After taking a final look at his paper-backed copy of 'Mountaineering Made Easy,' **Sergeant Frank Salmon** began the ascent. Being roped up in true alpine fashion **Sergeant Pete Allison** had little choice but to follow and could be heard calculating the energy required to lift X lbs of potential Foreman of Signals up Y feet of cliff face and regretting every erg of it. Gallantly bringing up the rear, which is the penalty of being the junior member, was **Lance-Corporal Graham Watson.** Happy in the knowledge that he had been promoted from outside-left on the football team to sweeper-up on the mountaineering squad ("What's in a name?" the Foreman says), his only complaint was that the best hand- and foot-holds were cluttered with empty beer cans.

When the memoirs are written

Lance-Corporal John Symes, as official historian, later explained in his memoirs that he felt that his secondary job of sherpa for the iron rations would be made progressively easier if, in his primary role of historian, he were to leave messages for posterity in cleverly fashioned cylindrical steel containers with aluminium ends. As the chain of command was in fact a rope and it would be impossible to abandon the historian without also losing No. 4 and the sweeper-upper —

A PINNACLE IS REACHED AND . . .
"To the victors the spoils"—Lance-Corporal John Symes, Lance-Corporal Don Inness, Sergeant Mike Smith, Sergeant Trevor McCarthy and Sergeant Frank Salmon

not to mention the iron rations — disciplinary action was limited to threats as to what would happen if the party ever attained level ground.

A handy ledge half-way up provided a rallying point and the remaining iron rations were rescued. The hot sun and the breathtaking view tempted the party to dally but the waiting crowd of welcomers and a representative of the press in the shape of our WIRE correspondent—who had all taken the easy way up—urged them onward and upward with cries of "It's nearly knocking-off time!" They responded nobly and should have set up a record time but for the failure of one component.

The tragic chain of events

The reader will no doubt be familiar with the tragic chain of events that starts 'For want of a nail a shoe was lost . . .' and the more technical will recognise that the performance of a complicated piece of apparatus is a product of the reliability of all the individual components. The Garrison R.Q.M.S., when questioned later as to the Mean-time-between-failures of M.O.D. issue braces, was somewhat less than helpful. Admittedly it wasn't a very good line and your scribe doesn't understand Urdu (*very* old soldier, our R.Q.M.S.) but the only thing that came across clearly was the word 'Stocktaking,' so I have to leave the technicalities and tell it like it was, as our trans-Atlantic cousins' colourful phrase has it.

Fourth man on the rope could be seen to be in difficulties and was not putting his all into his climbing, as he was using one hand to clutch his middle. Anxious enquiries revealed that he wasn't suffering from the dreaded 'Cyprus tum' but was having trouble with his trousers. A mental review of the now shrunken iron rations and first aid kit revealed nothing that could be of immediate help and as the leaders would not hear of retreat, like the good soldiers they are, it fell to the sweeper-upper to advance and employ his technician's ingenuity.

Having the rope to guide and assist him, S.U.'s eyes were more on the sagging green trousers above him than on just where he was putting his feet and as he was about to draw level with the afflicted member of the party he attempted to stand on one of the historian's messages for posterity.

Not a straw to clutch at

Drowning men clutch at straws they say. Having no straws handy S.U. clutched at, you guessed, the greenery right before his eyes and completed the embarrassment of the man above him. Now the party was completely at a standstill. A heated

"WE WERE HERE FIRST" — PUT ON THE RECORD
Lance-Corpoal John Symes, in his role of official historian for the party records that "We were the first to be here" or it could be the last will and testament in case there was a slip in getting down

discussion took place involving spectators, climbers and the station dog who, excited by all the shouting, joined in at full cry. The only contribution from the afflicted was limited to, "I can't ——— move at all, now." Undismayed, the assembly debated with all the skill and verve familiar to those who have taken advantage of the visitors' gallery at Westminster on a Friday afternoon and the majority came down on the side of removal—as opposed to restoration—and the job was given to the sweeper-upper. Decency demands that we draw a veil over the remainder of the ascent but as our photograph proves (the camera cannot lie, says the Foreman) they eventually made the summit. Our only regret is that we cannot provide evidence of the second half of the climb but our historian was encumbered with a pair of trousers as well as his typewriter and had no free hands.

The descent of the north face was uneventful except for the 'G.O.C.'s Slide'—a comparatively smooth portion of rock which is best negotiated on the seat of one's trousers. (Senior visitors please note). Since you-know-who was enjoying what breeze there was he had neglected to replace his breeks, and almost became our first casualty by sitting on the sun-baked limestone.

Free issues of Cyprus brandy for the resuscitation of officers i/c Adventure Training can be had by quoting this article as an authority. On recovery they are to be instructed not to believe everything they read.

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Freedom parade marks 50 years

THE 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps was marked in Leeds by 49 (WR) Signal Squadron exercising their right to march through the City with bayonets fixed and band playing.

About 150 members of the Squadron, led by **Major Jim Malcolm,** Old Comrades and the Band of the Army Apprentices' College were inspected by the Lord Mayor, **Alderman Arthur Brown.** The Squadron exercised their right as successors to 49 (West Riding) Divisional Signals and most of the old Comrades present had served in the Regiment for many years. The oldest ex-soldier on parade was **Mr. Len Payne,** 74 years old, who had seen service in France, Russia and Turkey; he joined the Army in 1913.

The Honorary Colonel, **Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E.,** accompanied the Mayor on his inspection and later the parade marched past them, led by the College Band, splendid in their scarlet and tartan dress uniforms. Saturday morning shoppers in Leeds thronged the pavement as they marched from Oxford Place, up the Headrow to New Harewood Barracks where guests from the City, the Corps and Old Comrades were entertained to lunch. Later in the day the Sergeants' Mess held a very successful social evening.

Lord Mayor's Show

The Regimental Band and a contingent from the Hull detachment took part in the Lord Mayor's Show in Hull recently. Mounted on a lorry, the Band played to appreciative crowds lining the processional route. The Band also took part in a very large rally of the Order of St. John at Raby Castle recently where crowds of over 2,000 listened to a two-hour programme of music.

Mayor's Sunday

The new Mayor of Teesside, **Alderman T. Thornton,** took the salute at a march past of Volunteers from 90 (NR) Squadron and the Band on Mayor's Sunday recently at Redcar. The volunteer sections of the community were represented by the Fire Brigade, Police and Welfare and other services. Yet another parade recently was the Dunkirk Veterans' Association march past when Volunteers from Teesside were represented by 90 (NR) Squadron.

Farewell to R.S.M.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. D. Mears was dined out by the Regimental Sergeants' Mess on his retirement from the Army. Eighty members and guests wished him good luck and success in his new future in Portsmouth. He is being relieved by **R.S.M. P. B. Overland,** who up to his appointment was Unit M.T.O. **W.O.I S. B. C. Peberdy** has arrived to take over Unit M.T.O. and we welcome him and his family to the sunny North East. We also welcome **W.O.II C. Knock** and **Staff Sergeants J. M. Higgins** and **R. Elliott,** recently posted in.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds inspects 49 (WR) Squadron accompanied by the Squadron Commander Major G. J. Malcolm. In the rear the Honorary Colonel Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L.

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ROVER

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Sqn. (V) Essex

THIS Signal Squadron was formed in January, 1969, and was recruited exclusively from the former Essex Yeomanry, R.H.A., T.A.

The history of the Essex Yeomanry began in 1798, at the time of the threatened Napoleonic invasion, and when this threat receded, the last troop of the Essex Yeomanry was disbanded in 1828.

The West Essex Yeomanry Cavalry was raised in 1830 and was active until 1877. From then until 1900, the Essex Volunteer Cavalryman served with the Essex Troop of the Loyal Suffolk Hussars. The success of the Imperial Yeomanry during the Boer War led to the raising of the Essex Imperial Yeomanry in 1901. The Regiment became part of the Territorial Army on 1st April, 1908, and in 1911 was the only Yeomanry Regiment to wear the brass helmet at the coronation of King George V.

In 1914 the Essex Yeomanry mobilised and joined the 3rd Cavalry Division in France. Dismounted, the Regiment made a noteworthy bayonet charge at Frenzenberg Ridge on 13th May, 1915, to overcome the German defenders. It was, however, on 11th April, 1917, that the Regiment gained the distinction of taking part in one of the last Cavalry charges, together with the Royal Horse Guards and 10th Hussars, at Monchey Le Preux, after which, until relieved, the Brigade held Monchey for three days against determined counter-attacks. **Lance-Corporal Mugford** won the V.C. during this action.

Raised again in 1920, the Regiment became 104th (Essex Yeomanry) Brigade, R.F.A., in 1921, when the ball buttons were adopted. A second Regiment, 147th Field Regiment, R.H.A., was raised in 1939.

104th Regiment saw action in North Africa in 1940/41, supported the Australians during the first siege of Tobruk, fought at the Battle of El Alamein, and took part in the campaign in Italy into Austria, before disbandment in 1946. One Battery was detached in 1942 to Burma, was expanded to 14th Regiment, R.H.A., and was disbanded in 1946.

147th Regiment, equipped with SP 25-pounders, took part in the D-Day landings in France in 1944, and fought in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, until disbandment in 1945.

The Essex Yeomanry was re-formed in 1947 as 30th (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment, R.A. The honorary title R.H.A. was conferred in February, 1955. Conversion to a Home Defence role followed in 1967, and from April, 1968, to 1969, the Regiment became once more 'unpaid patriots' until re-formed as 70th (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Signadron (V), a Squadron of 71st Signal Regiment (V), commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker.**

The present O.C., **Major Peter Sebag-Montefiore,** commands the Squadron with Troops located at Chelmsford, Harlow and Southend-on-Sea. Whether as Cavalry, Gunners, Home Defence or now Signallers, the Essex Yeomanry have played many roles—all with honour, pride and efficiency.

81 Signal Squadron (V) return to Cyprus

Back to Akrotiri

81 Squadron (the ex-A.E.R. 'Post Office' Volunteer Squadron) achieved another milestone in May by returning to Cyprus for the second time in six months to carry out annual training in R.A.F. Akrotiri and elsewhere in the island. A VC-10 of R.A.F. Support Command once again transported us effortlessly and quickly, and we were delighted to find some old friends from 3rd Signal Group at the terminal to meet us. Within a few hours, it was as if we had never left.

We were soon to have our first (and probably only) shock—the weather! Accustomed as we were, from the previous November, to cloudless skies and a blazing sun, we were astonished to find a cool wind and rain. The position was not improved when the first letters started arriving from our wives, in which the general message was "London 73°F., Nicosia 63°F. . . . ha ha!" However, in a matter of three or four days, Mother Nature pulled herself together and we were back to the weather we were expecting (and so, incidentally, were those at home).

Our return to the island did not escape the attention of the G.O.C. NEARELF, **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.** A letter of welcome was handed to us at the air terminal, together with an invitation to the officers to drinks at 'Flagstaff House.' This proved to be a very enjoyable occasion. His A.D.C., **Captain Mike Walker,** knowing that there would be ten 'grass widowers' at the party, was far from idle and produced at least an equal number of delightful young ladies for us to meet—as well, of course, as many officers and their wives from Episkopi and elsewhere.

81 Squadron 'deliver' the goods

There was not, this time, a major project for us to do. We were, therefore, scattered in small detachments throughout Akrotiri and Episkopi and indeed, by the second week, a few members of the Squadron got as far as Dhekelia. A sizeable detachment spent the fortnight re-wiring parts of the Princess Mary Hospital at Akrotiri, and occasionally found themselves assisting in tasks very different to those they had expected. One day, some young nurses in the maternity block found themselves in temporary difficulty and were grateful for the assistance of certain linemen who, as family men, had not escaped from learning something of what delivery and young babies were all about!

Another detachment recovered an overhead cable in Episkopi—a task that resembled unravelling a ball of knitting wool more than anything else. This project was not without its moments. On one occasion, the cable, which was 55-pair and armoured, was lowered deliberately, but perhaps a bit quickly on to the roof of a tin sentry box-type 'loo,' thereby causing the startled occupant to escape quickly and in some disarray, thinking that another tornado had hit the island!

A multitude of smaller tasks were carried out, particularly by the technicians, and once again, our Foremen, **Staff Sergeants 'Ron' Williams** and **Yule,** solved certain faults that had baffled others for a considerable time past. On the final day, during the course of the G.O.C.'s visit, **Staff Sergeant 'Jo' Thompson** gave a demonstration of latest Post Office thinking on solid resin jointing to members of the Airfield Troop at Akrotiri—a first-class example of how we try to pay for our keep when on overseas detachment.

Parties, parades and presentations

The social scene was as lively and active as ever. Early on, whilst there was still time, the Officers and Senior N.C.O.s got together for a useful evening at the 'Pen' Club, and on our last night, the whole Squadron gathered there for a party, with **Captain Tony Gatward** and the men of his Airfield Troop as our guests. **Signalman O'Hanlon,** the Squadron 'wit,' caused consternaton at the opening of the evening's entertainment by stating that he had heard that the twenty hardest drinking members of the Squadron would not be allowed to remain any longer. Sighs of relief came when he posed the hypothetical question as to how the Squadron could continue without its Officers and Senior N.C.O.s! Notable amongst the 'turns' were those produced by the Scottish, 'Geordie' and Manchester elements of the Squadron; and the officers' choir, succeeded, as usual, in lowering the tone of the party.

Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Hall, our Commanding Officer, bounced out of an aircraft early one morning halfway through the fortnight, having travelled all night and having just completed a 'recce' for camp next year in Germany. Even he paled a little when the O.C., **Major Peter Dixon,** informed him that he was on parade in one hour. He was there, of course, and our march past (never practised and only attempted once a year) was really quite good. After that parade, we presented the Administrative Officer of 40th Signal Regiment, **Captain Norman Rees,** with a silver tray in recognition of all he has done for the Squadron. Without a good man in that position, a Squadron such as ours could not 'get off the ground.'

The Squadron was greatly honoured to receive a further visit from the G.O.C., **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.** Although we were very scattered, he saw several detachments at work and, as before, he showed a great interest in everybody and everything. He persevered notwithstanding the total breakdown of his car, midway between Episkopi and

The Officers and Senior N.C.O.s of 81 Signal Squadron (V) with Lieutenant-Colonel D. Hall, C.O. 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)

Akrotiri, and the officers were delighted to entertain him and the Station Commander of Akrotiri, **Air-Commodore W. J. Stacey,** to lunch at the R.A.F. Akrotiri Officers' Mess. Having ourselves been presented with the Station Plaque last November, in recognition of our services to R.A.F. Akrotiri, we had the pleasure this time, through our O.C., to present to **Air-Commodore Stacey** our own 'Beaufighter' (Air Formation Signals type) plaque to mark our deep admiration and affection for his station.

Farewell to Akrotiri

After two years in Akrotiri, 81 Squadron will be going to its old haunts in Germany next year with 21st Signal Regiment at R.A.F. Wildenrath and R.A.F. Bruggen. Looking back over two camps in Akrotiri, we do not just remember the sea and sunshine, the Mezzis and the Kebabs. We have a multitude of memories—the friendships we made with the Royal Air Force and 3rd Signal Group; the unfailing good humour and assistance from **Captain Tony Gatward, Staff Sergeant Bermingham** and the men of the Airfield Troop at Akrotiri; the R.A.F. officers and their wives, who entertained so many of us and came in droves to see us off, and indeed, the pilots in the various flying squadrons, who were either stationed there or who were just visiting, and how often we heard them saying to each other, after they had met us informally for the first time and in plain clothes . . . "81 Squadron seem a good bunch—now are they Canberras or Tankers, or what?"

Two quotations to end:

Firstly, after eight of our drivers had been assigned entirely to the R.A.F. and spent their fortnight driving pilots and other persons on shift work to their places of work by coach, the R.A.F. M.T.O. writes: "The detached drivers set about their work in a very able manner and carried out their duties very efficiently. They were always cheerful and courteous and their presence was of much value. They reflected great credit to their Regiment and helped considerably to foster the spirit of Army/R.A.F. co-operation."

Finally, **Air-Commodore Stacey,** in his farewell letter to **Major Peter Dixon,** said in the last paragraph: "I believe that next year, your Squadron is destined to go to Germany for annual training—Germany's gain will be our loss, but perhaps it will not be too long before Akrotiri benefits from 81 Squadron's assistance once again. Thank you for all your efforts and the exemplary discipline and bearing of your men. It has been a great pleasure to have you with us at Akrotiri."

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Signalman Stewart Beare of Yeovil examining a joint

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253 SIGNAL SQUADRON POSE PROUDLY BEFORE ONE YEAR'S HAUL OF TROPHIES—CAN ANYONE BEAT THIS?
Front Row, left to right: W.O.II Newell, Lance-Corporal Blythe, Corporal Jones, Corporal Innes, Captain Davies, Major Pickard, Captain Law, Corporal Jennings, Signalman Frisby, W.O.II Chu Fook Hung, Sergeant Chan Fai, W.O.II Edwards
Back Row, left to right: Corporal Mann, Signalman Humby, Lance-Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal Bell, Corporal Sutherland, Corporal Kuester, Corporal Ma Kwok Keung, Corporal Hutchinson, Signalman Cheng Ka Lin, Lance-Corporal Lee Sau Kwan

TYPICAL OF THE SPORTING SPIRIT IN HONG KONG SIGNALS
252 SIGNAL SQUADRON'S FOOTBALL TEAM—WINNERS 51 BRIGADE MINOR UNITS CUP
Standing, left to right: Corporal Taylor, Corporal Gilbert, Corporal Carter, Corporal Croft, Signalman Laws, Sergeant Fraser, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Chick
Kneeling, left to right: Corporal Wong Pak Keung, Corporal Simpson, Signalman Hartley, Sergeant Forrester, Lance-Corporal Speight, Signalman Hayes

THERE are about 120 Royal Signals all ranks in Hong Kong: the bulk of our units are made up of Gurkhas, LEPs and LECs. It is a fact that sporting achievement falls most heavily on the British ranks, probably because the games we play were originally designed for and by the British. We have read with interest of Leeds United's shot at a football treble; with admiration of 7th Armoured Brigade's ski-ing triumphs; and of 1st Division Signal Regiment's tribute from their departing G.O.C., for their military, sporting and catering achievements.

What follows is a brief summary of what three minor units have achieved in one year in Hong Kong. When Colony championships are mentioned, the population, it should be remembered, is over four million.

Football.—Minor Units Cup final winners, 252 Squadron; Runners-up, Minor Units League, 252 Squadron; third in Minor Units League, 253 Squadron.

Hockey.—League winners, 252 Squadron; 51 Brigade Minor Units Cup finalists and winners, 252 Squadron; Land Forces Cup finalists and runners-up, 252 Squadron; 48 Brigade six-a-side champions, 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

Athletics.—51 Brigade Champion Unit, 253 Squadron; Land Forces Minor Units Champions, 253 Squadron.

Tug-of-war. — 51 Brigade Minor Units Champions, 252 Squadron.

Orienteering.—51 Brigade Champion Unit, 253 Squadron; Veterans' Cup, 253 Squadron; Ladies' Trophy, W.R.A.C. Hong Kong (all Signals team).

Shooting.—51 Brigade Rifle Meeting: Section Match, Royal Ulster Rifles Cup, and Team Rifle Trophy, 253 Squadron.

Basketball.—48 Brigade Champion Unit, 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron.

B.A.M.A. Rallies. — Team Winners, August, 1969, 252 Squadron.

Motor Cycle Trials. — Colony Champion, **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Edwards,** 253 Squadron.

Moto-Cross.—Colony Champion, **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Edwards,** 253 Squadron.

Golf.—**David Edwards,** son of **S.S.M. Edwards,** is Colony Junior Champion, holder of both the Army and the Colony Allcomers Handicap Golf Trophies.

Ten-Pin Bowling.—Trophies for the Army (Kowloon) Knockout League and the Services' Knockout Championships are held by 253 Squadron; 252 Squadron won the Novices' Doubles Trophy, the Novices' Handicap, and were second in the Armed Forces League. Even H.Q., Royal Signals, won the Dunhill Trophy, a handsome rose bowl, in an eight-team league.

To continue, **Sergeant Forrester** is captain of the Army 1st XI soccer team (which is due for promotion to the Colony's First Division next season) and **Signalman Steadman, Corporal Lund, Lance-Corporal Bates** and **Signalman Rowe** were members of the two Army sides, which are the league leaders in the Colony's 2nd and 3rd Divisions respectively.

51 Brigade Hockey team consists of eight players from 252 Signal Squadron and three others; **Major Martin Pickard** plays cricket for the Army 2nd XI, which won the Colony League this year; **Captain Stuart Law** is the Colony pole vault champion.

Captain Rusty Davis is a leading light among rugby refrees, and has as his chief claim to fame the fact that he has introduced the game to hundreds of Chinese schoolboys, who now play regularly.

Major Vic Impey has a reputation for stern impartiality as hockey umpire (often needed when the Sikh Club plays, for example, the Portuguese) and has been much in demand for international matches.

252 Signal Squadron has 38 regular squash players. **Captain Maurice Caplan** is Secretary of the Army Football Association. **Major Roger Hills** is Secretary of Army Squash, and C.R. Signals is the Chairman.

Just in case anyone wonders what else we do, we can reasonably claim that there is nowhere else in the world where the Corps has so many continuously working circuits per man, and we do not work tropical hours. For those who think that Rhine Army has a monopoly of exercises, last year we took part in more than twenty, which included amphibious FTX, Limited War and Counter-Revolutionary War Exercises, and Internal Security schemes; had a near-miss typhoon; a tattoo; a Royal Visitor, and a 100 per cent fitness record on all equipment inspections; did some of our trade training; sent men to sea in H.M. Ships; brought power to remote villages and entertained fourteen senior official viistors. Sometimes, some of us even go on leave.

* * *

[All will agree, a fine record—with regret that two photographs of 252 Squadron's fine hockey and tug-of-war teams have had to be omitted due to space considerations. Their departing C.R. Signals, **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Hart,** in a letter to the Editor, says about his British soldiers, "Their military record matches their sporting achievement, and there is hardly a man who doesn't do something to contribute to the general well-being."—Editor].

Getting ready for Bisley

Royal Signal Germany Skill-at-Arms Meeting, Sennelager—

THE following report was delivered by **Major Brian Toy,** Royal Signals, on the British Forces Broadcasting Services programme 'Your Sporting World' on 2nd June:

At Sennelager last week, in weather conditions that went from good to grim, some 130 competitors took part in the Royal Signals Germany Skill-at-Arms Meeting. The standard of shooting was high and the 40 or more firers who are going to the U.K. in June to compete at the Royal Signals Corps Meeting at Bulford and at the A.R.A. and N.R.A. Meeting at Bisley will have benefited greatly from this opportunity to fire under competition conditions.

The Corps' high shooting reputation

In recent years, the Royal Corps of Signals has gained a high reputation in both the Army and National shooting worlds. For instance, at Bisley last year 15 Royal Signals firers were awarded Army Hundred medals; nine were selected as members of Army teams competing in Inter-Service matches and several magnificent pieces of silver now grace Royal Signals Messes both at home and in Germany. Our good wishes go to those who are now preparing to compete in the U.K. and, this being the Golden Jubilee Year for the Royal Corps of Signals, what better way to celebrate than by the Royal Signals team winning the Methuen Cup at Bisley?

21st Regiment take the overall team trophy

Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E., took time off from an exercise to literally drop in by helicopter at Sennelager to present the prizes. As was expected, 21st Signal Regiment from Laarbruch took the overall team trophy but not without stiff competition from 7th Signal Regiment from Herford who gained second place and the trophy for units in the 1st British Corps area. The Individual Champion was **Captain Doug Genders** of H.Q. 4th Division. **Doug Genders** is a well-known Corps and Bisley shot who takes his shooting very seriously. In recent years, while stationed in Singapore, he indulged back to the U.K. each year to fire in the Corps meeting and at Bisley. 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment can look forward to gaining some shooting fame with him around—and 21st Signal Regiment will have to fight even harder next year if they want to retain their shooting reputation! The Champion Class 'B' shot (a class 'B' shot is a Corporal or below with less than five years' service) was, after a re-shoot, **Lance-Corporal Worth** of 12 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

THE CHAMPION CLASS 'B' SHOT

Signalman McNeil 16th Signal Regiment, congratulates Lance-Corporal Worth 12 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron on winning, after a re-shoot, the Champion Class 'B' Shot prize

He beat **Signalman McNeil** of 16th Signal Regiment and everyone was pleased when **McNeil** stepped forward to collect a prize for winning his class in the Sub Machine Gun match. The three rifle matches were won by **Captain Genders, Corporal Hankins,** of 13th Signal Regiment, and **Lance-Corporal Perry,** of 12 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. The Class 'B' prizes in each case went to **Signalman Wainwright,** of 11 Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron, **Corporal Woodford,** of 21st Signal Regiment, and **Craftsman Wenham** of 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. **R.Q.M.S. Easter,** of 16th Signal Regiment, Krefeld, won the Sub Machine Gun match, and the Pistol prizes went to **Lieutenant John Reed,** of 21st Signal Regiment, with **Captain Genders** second—both with very good scores. The Light Machine Gun pairs match was won by **Lance-Corporal O'Connor** and **Signalman Barber,** of 4th Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, with **Lieutenant Reed** and **Corporal Flynn,** of 21st Signal Regiment, as runners-up. 20th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron won the Sub Machine Gun team match and the Falling Plates match was won by 16th Signal Regiment who beat their old rivals 21st Signal Regiment in an exciting finish.

7th Regiment win the small bore competition

The prizes for the Royal Signals Germany Small Bore Competition 1969/70 were also presented. 7th Signal Regiment 'A' team, against tough opposition, took the trophy, and the best individual was **Staff Sergeant E. Smith,** of 21st Signal Regiment. **Captain Charles Timson,** also of 21st Signal Regiment, won the individual match.

Two very large and expensive pieces of silver graced the prizes table and were presented by **Brigadier Sherratt** to 21st Signal Regiment. They were for Army Rifle Association Non-Central Matches — the King George Cup which 21st Signal Regiment also won last year, and the Corps Shield which they have now won for the fifth consecutive year. A third trophy—the King Edward Cup—is still on its way from the Far East and 21st Regiment have been advised to strengthen their dining table before displaying it! 21st Signal Regiment are to be congratulated on such fine shooting achievements.

Finally, **Brigadier Sherratt** paid a warm tribute to **Major Freddie Oakes,** of H.Q. Royal Air Force Germany, who has been running Royal Signals competition shooting in Germany for the past four years and who is now handing over the Captaincy to **Major John Cox,** of 21st Signal Regiment.

CARDIFF BRANCH

Hon. Secretary.—**M. H. Jones, Esq.,** 42, Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff. CF5 3DB.

The social evening staged by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants on 9th May, during which **Glen Stevens** and his wife were forbidden to perform their duties behind the bar, was a highly-successful affair, and Glen took quite a few days to recover from the event. Our 'Jack of all trades,' **Frank Johnson,** carried out the duties of bar steward, and surprised us with his ability to cope so well.

Jim Lister, on behalf of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, presented Glen with a splendid electric clock, suitably engraved; Flo was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and was rendered speechless with pleasure and surprise. **George Rolls** then presented Glen with an inscribed tankard, given by the members of this branch in appreciation of the many services he has performed on our behalf.

The tankard was immediately snatched from Glen and filled with whisky. From that moment on, the tide never receded within the tankard, and Glen became steadily the worse for wear. When Flo eventually managed to get Glen home and to bed, I hardly think she helped matters when, finding she was out of coffee, administered a hefty dose of epsom salts!

We are always concerned when our social activities are being discussed and planned, with efforts to attract the younger members, both to participate and to help and advise us of their interests in this field. With this object in view, we staged, on 23rd May, a 'Disco' Group, complete with 'Go-Go' girls. Again we were rather disappointed with the support from our members of the age group we thought might enjoy this form of entertainment, but we can assure them we have not yet surrendered in our efforts to please them.

We 'squares' were somewhat apprehensive on this occasion, never having experienced its like before, but it proved to be a most enjoyable and entertaining evening for the young and for the 'not so young.' I did notice that some of the older lads hastily grabbed their drinks and tore in to watch each of the 'Go-Go' girl acts—**'Gunner' Lloyd** and **Ted Dalziel** leading each of the heats.

When the 'Disco' Group arrived, I happened to be near the acting P.M.C., **Jim Lister.** As the retinue tripped through the mess with their masses of equipment in their 'way out' apparel, I noticed a look of glazed horror appear on Jim's face. I hastily assured him we would guarantee no 'demo's' or 'sit-ins' would be staged, and after Jim had swallowed one or two more 'sedatives,' he seemed to regain his shattered composure—almost!

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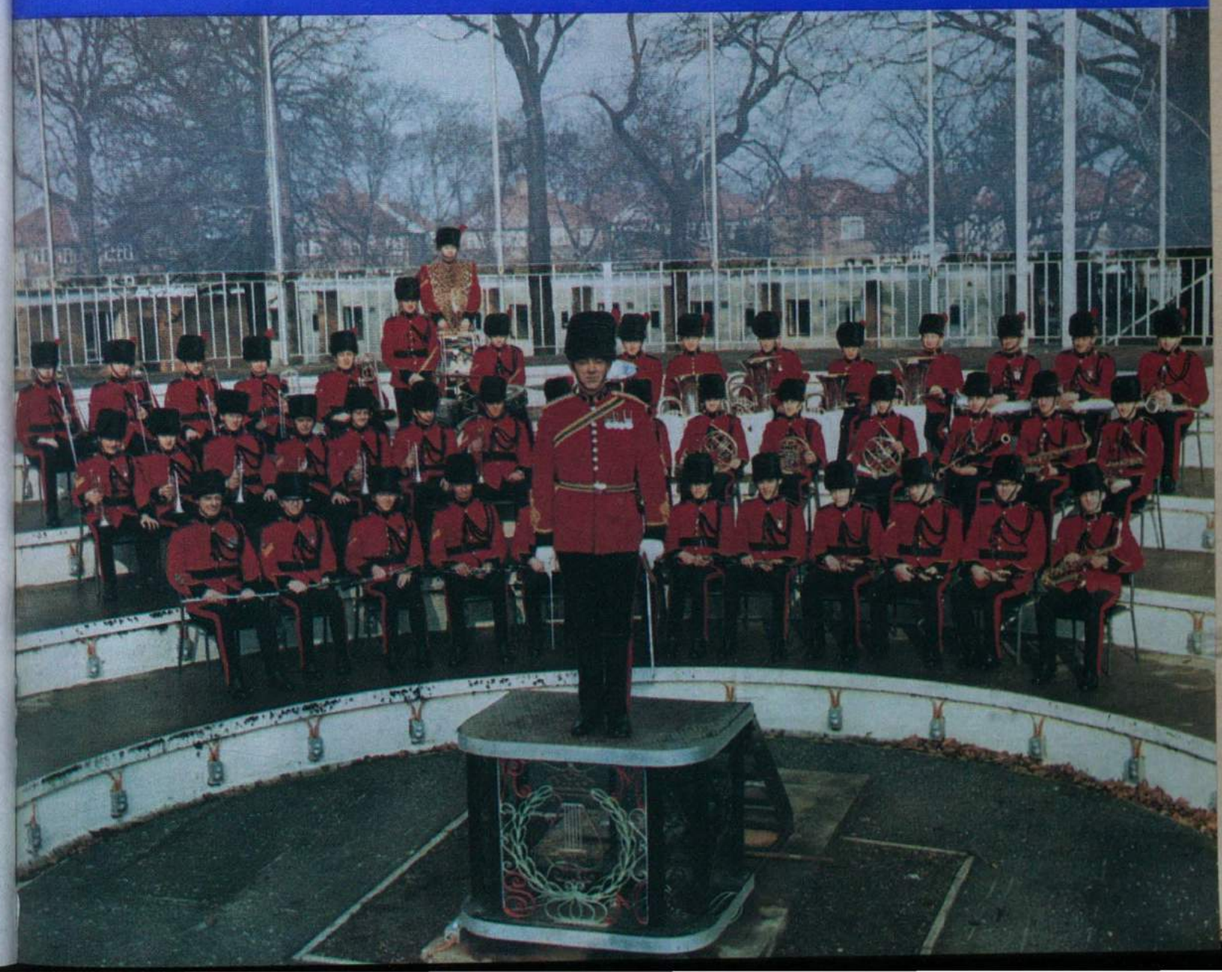
August-September 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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THE WIRE

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

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

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Mr. L. Wood

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☆

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 8**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We are happy this month to feature the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, under its Director of Music, **Captain Keith Boulding, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., B.B.C.M., psm.** The photograph was taken at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, to mark the performance given there as part of the Corps' Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations. The Band was invited to take part in the first concert of the season, and the honour of Guest Conductor was afforded to **Captain Boulding.**

Nineteen-seventy will be one of the busiest times in the Band's 44 years of existence, during which most Signal Regiments in B.A.O.R. and the U.K. will have been visited, and culminating with a display at the Royal Albert Hall during the Festival of Remembrance on 7th November.

All will agree that the Corps Band, under **Captain Boulding's** direction, is in excellent form, and those present at the Service of Rededication in Salisbury Cathedral on 21st June will long remember the inspiring music of the Band and the Fanfare Trumpeters in the beautiful setting of the Cathedral.

1970

This special year in the history of the Corps has now passed its zenith. Dinners, receptions, balls, reunions, church services and a Royal visit have all in various ways marked our fifty years of existence as a Corps in our own right.

The great reunions at Salisbury/Blandford and Catterick have been given ample publicity in this WIRE and it would be superfluous to say more in this column than that the Service of Re-dedication in Salisbury Cathedral in the presence of a packed congregation, must surely go down as one of the outstanding days in the history of Royal Signals.

Amid all these celebrations most marked has been a spirit of pride and affection for the Corps. The presence of a number of original founder members from 1920 intermingled through all ages right down to the excellent young men of the present-day Corps, has underlined that very special family feeling which is such a marked feature of Corps life.

Without doubt quite a year!

The Wire

Once again in July we go to press with THE WIRE practically bursting out of its covers with no less than 68 pages.

Much of this is undoubtedly due to the reporting of 1970 events and a certain exuberance engendered by the 1970 spirit. In the light of this we are not putting the brakes on but from now on we must really try and return to a WIRE of more economical size if we are not to go well into the red financially.

Please therefore:

Be reasonably brief in your units notes. Keep to essential and interesting topics and cut out reports of trivial domestic items of little interest outside and already well known in the unit.

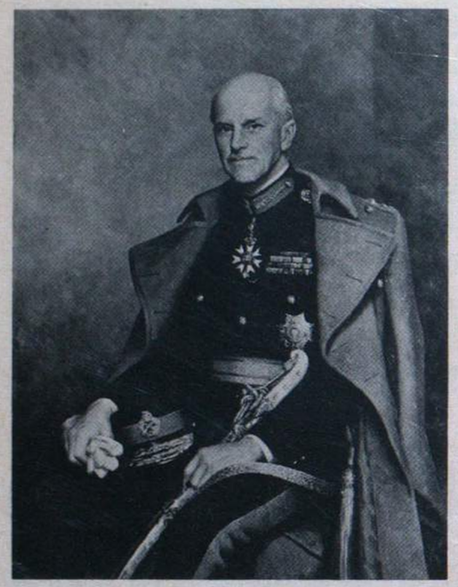
Do not send in notes at all if there is nothing interesting to report.

Restrict yourself to one or two really good photographs rather than a number of indifferent ones.

Unless we can get THE WIRE down to a more moderate size we shall have to undergo a slimming diet by some system of rationing contributions —a painful process which we would like to avoid.

Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.

Master of Signals, 1961-70



After a portrait by Leonard Boden

ON 31st July, General Scott came to the end of his tour of duty as the first Master of Signals, to which he was appointed on 4th August, 1961. At the same time he ended 53 years of continuous service to Signals in the Army — service which, beginning as an officer in R.E. Signals and continuing in Royal Signals, took him after his retirement from the Active List to Colonel Commandant Royal Signals and concluded with his nine years as Master of Signals. A record which surely will never be surpassed.

His success as a serving officer, whether as Director of Signals or in senior appointments on the staff, owed much to his imperturbability, his analytical and receptive mind, his resolution and his unfailing courtesy. As Master of Signals and as the elder statesman who was able to stand back from the daily pressures under which most of us live, his devotion to the Corps, his wise guidance of our affairs and his unfailing encouragement have been of the deepest significance to us all. His high sense of duty and his integrity have been an example to us and have contributed to the high esteem in which the Corps — his home and his family for half-a-century — is now held. A career covering so wide a span of years has brought him into close touch with many generations to each of whom, in turn, he has imparted his own brand of inspiration. Those of us who have come to know him well particularly cherish the gift he has for bridging the 'generation gap' and the warmth of human support and understanding which he has given us.

The Corps owes a great debt to Sir William and also to Lady Scott who has so charmingly supported him in all that he has done. We wish them both the happiest of retirements. **M.D.P.**

Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Master of Signals, August, 1970

THE birth of a son (Peter Edward Moore) to Lieutenant and Mrs. E. de W. H. Bradley in December, 1914, coincided with the secondment of the father, then serving with the K.O.Y.L.I., to the R.E. Signal Service. Lieutenant Bradley was to transfer later to Royal Signals, and after commanding both 1st and 5th Divisional Signals and A Corps Signals, India, he was in turn C.S.O. at York and Salisbury. During his distinguished career he won the C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. and Croix de Guerre.

His son Peter was educated at Marlborough and the Shop and joined the Corps in 1934. Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War he had seen service in Palestine and on the North West Frontier. The war took him to Iraq, Persia, the Middle East and Italy with the 8th Indian Division; then to North West Europe with 59th Division, and finally to the Rhine crossing where he won the D.S.O. while in command of 6th Airborne Divisional Signals. A post war course at the Staff College was followed by both second and first grade G staff appointments and a spell as representative of the Corps at Sandhurst. He commanded 1 (BR) Corps Signal Regiment from 1952-1955. Two years as a Colonel on the Standing Group in Washington was a good introduction to international soldiering, and this was followed by two years as Colonel (G.S.) of 1 (BR) Corps in Germany — a period, some say, when the H.Q. reached the height of its mobility! From 1961-1964 he commanded the Singapore Military Forces and 4th Federal Infantry Brigade. From the Far East he went to Canada as Senior Army Liaison Officer and Military Adviser to the British High Commission. From 1965 to 1968 General Bradley was Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and he retired in 1970 after being Chief of Staff to C-in-C Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo.

Since 1967 he has been Colonel Commandant, Royal Signals and is also Colonel, Gurkha Signals. We now welcome him as the second holder of the office of Master of Signals, to which he has been appointed by Her Majesty from 3rd August, 1970. We hope he will have a long and happy tenure.

Salisbury, 21st June 1970 . . . A great day for the Corps

Fifty Years gone past but as soldierly as ever

Founder Members of the Corps headed by Brigadier C. P. Prescot, C.B.E., march past with pride and admirable precision. The Master of Signals, flanked by the Mayor, takes the salute after a memorable service of Rededication in Salisbury Cathedral on the occasion of the Corps' 50th Anniversary.

SUNDAY, 21st June, 1970, will be a day to remember in the Corps for very many, many years to come!

On that day members of the Corps, both past and present, and their families, travelled from near and far to Salisbury, on a beautiful summer's morning, to attend a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in one of the finest cathedrals in our country. This majestic and historic cathedral, which was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements in blue and white for the occasion, was filled to capacity by a congregation spanning the whole history of the Corps.

The service was attended by the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.;** the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.;** the Representative Colonel Commandant, **Major-General M. D. Price, C.B., O.B.E.;** the Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, **Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.,** and their ladies, together with some 1,700 Founder Members, Old Comrades, Regular and T.A.V.R. officers, soldiers and their families, and representatives from Australia, Canada, Pakistan, New Zealand and the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Before the service, the Dean of Salisbury, the **Very Rev. K. W. Haworth,** received the Master of Signals, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury at the Great West Door of the cathedral and escorted them in procession to their places in the cathedral.

After this, under the direction of the Standard Marshal, **Mr. P. Wilcox,** of the Dorset Branch, 25 Royals Signals Association branch standards were escorted in impressive procession up the centre aisle to the Altar. Here they were received by the Assistant Chaplain General, Army Strategic Command, **Rev. W. A. Williams, Q.H.C.,** and laid up for the service by **Brigadier the Rev. W. B. Rowett, Major the Rev. L. S. Pettifer** (both former officers of the Corps) and **Rev. Brian Pugh,** R.A.Ch.D.

The Master of Signals is introduced to the Dean by Colonel Winn. The S.O.-in-C. and the High Sheriff (in background) wait their turn

The moving and memorable service then started with a dramatic arrangement of the National Anthem, played superbly by the Corps Band and Fanfare Trumpeters under the direction of **Captain K. R. R. Boulding,** Director of Music. The Band lent a vivid splash of colour, and along with the greens, blues and golds of the standards and the glitter of many medals, added a splendid touch of military pageantry to this historic occasion. Their playing during the service was magnificent. The 'Last Post' and 'Reveille,' played during the Act of Dedication, from opposite ends of the cathedral, and the final 'Fanfare for Heroes' were particularly impressive and moving.

During the service, which was conducted by the Assistant Chaplain General, the Lesson was read by the Master of Signals; the S.O.-in-C. led the special Prayer of Dedication, and the Chaplain General to the Forces, the **Venerable J. R. Youens, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** gave the address. The Blessing was given by the Dean of Salisbury, who, after the standards had been recovered at the end of the service, led the procession of military and civilian dignitaries to the Great West Doors of the cathedral to add a final touch of pageantry to a splendid and memorable service.

Conclusion of the Service

Major-General Pentreath, S.O.-in-C., takes leave of the Dean and the Precentor on leaving the Cathedral

After the service, whilst the remainder of the congregation made their way to the saluting point in the Market Place, an impressive parade of Old Comrades, serving and T. & A.V.R. soldiers formed up outside the cathedral to round off the morning's ceremonies by marching through Salisbury.

The parade was made up of some 300 Old Comrades, under command of **Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,** including 34 Founder Members, headed by **Brigadier C. P. Prescot, C.B.E.,** and 500 Regular and T.A.V.R. soldiers from 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, 14th and 30th Signal Regiments, 216 (Para) Brigade Signal Squadron and 37th Signal Regiment (V). The Parade Commander was **Colonel T. G. H. Jackson, O.B.E.,** the Parade Adjutant was **Captain M. A. Thorne,** and the Parade R.S.M. was **W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. E. Morrill.**

In brilliant sunshine and before large crowds of spectators, with the band of the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades

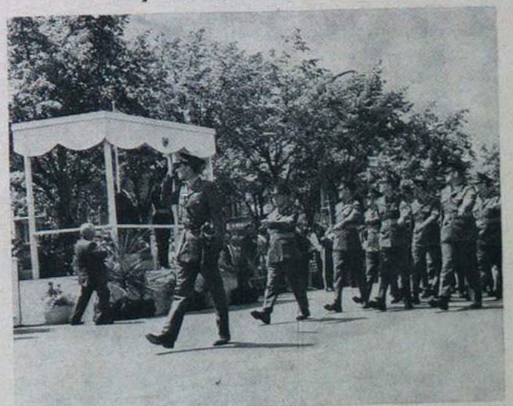
A Solid Phalanx

Standard Bearers and Escorts were a fine example of the older Corps as they marched past

heading the parade of retired members of the Corps, and the Corps band leading the serving contingents, the parade marched in fine style through the streets of Salisbury past the special saluting dais in the Market Place to the spontaneous applause of the general public. The salute was taken by the Master of Signals, who was accompanied on the dais by the Mayor of Salisbury, to end a memorable occasion in the history of the Corps.

The thanks of the Corps are due to many people for making the occasion such a success; to the Dean and Chapter for allowing the use of the magnificent Cathedral and for helping so much in drafting the Order of Service; to the Mayor of Salisbury for allowing the parade to march through the city; to the Police and other civic authorities for their splendid co-operation; and to a large number of officers and soldiers for their work in planning and organising both the Service and the March Past. The success of their efforts was there for all to see and in the unanimous opinion **"A great day for the Corps."**

They marched with a swing



Nearly 500 Regular and T.A.V.R. Soldiers marched past after the Old Comrades

Presentations to the Corps on its Golden Jubilee

BLANDFORD, 21st JUNE 1970

1. Major-General Obedul Rehman, Director of Signals Pakistan, presents to the Master of Signals, a replica in silver of the Corps of Signals, Pakistan Army, War Memorial at Gharial in the Murree Hills

2. Major-General George E. Pickett, the Assistant Chief of Staff for communications—electronics, U.S. Army, presents a commemorative plaque which is admired by Major General Pentreath, S.O.-in-C.

3. Major D. G. Rodda on behalf of Royal New Zealand Signals presents a decorative casket made of Paua shells. Looking on Major-General Pentreath (S.O.-in-C.) and Major-General Bradley (Master of Signals designate)

The Golden Jubilee Reunion at Blandford

R.M.A. writes:

After the march past was over in Salisbury, the Corps formed a solid motorcade to Blandford, only missing the Standard Bearer who got lost on the way to church and another who got lost after the service.

On reaching Blandford Camp, the most sought-after thing was beer, except for the Aldershot Branch of the Association, who slipped straight from parade into a Salisbury pub and blunted their thirst. There were several well-stocked bars and two lunch tents dealing with a thousand hungry people. The result was excellent and there was no hitch or delay. The same tents were used later for tea. The excellent food had been prepared by the A.C.C., to whom go our thanks and congratulations. The Royal Signals Association generously covered the cost of the catering.

Few of the serving soldiers came on to Blandford from Salisbury, but the entire garrison, their wives, children and friends turned out to enjoy the reunion. There were ice cream stalls and memento stalls. The Museum was thronged. Parts of the School of Signals were open and provided closed circuit television. The Princess Mary Hall showed films, including one of the recent visit to the School of H.R.H. Princess Anne.

While the Museum dealt with the past, there was an open air demonstration of modern equipment. The Amateur Radio Society was in contact with Signalmen all over the world. After tea, the White Helmets gave the performance which they are shortly to give at the Royal Tournament. As always, they performed with incredible skill and daring. The evening drew on, and to finish the official programme, the Corps Band played Retreat. The meetings between old friends continued long after, and all were delighted with a wonderful reunion. To the General Secretary and his staff we owe a great deal. We can't begin to express our thanks to Brigadier Cubberley, Commandant, School of Signals, and through him, to his staff, for the great day they organised on our behalf. We feel that Blandford truly is the new home of the Corps.

An officer concerned with the organisation at Blandford writes:

"Car parking for 750 cars; 300 two-and-a-half-pound chickens; seating for 1,500; 200 yards of tent, 40 feet wide; insurance cover for £50,000 worth of silver and uniforms; buffet lunch for 1,200 people and tea.

"The cars will all arrive at the same time, and 1,200 people will want a drink straight away (40 barmen). Give them a pre-packed lunch, air travel style, with plastic cutlery, no washing-up."

Just a few random notes from the pre-planning meetings that started 12 months ago to get the School of Signals into the right shape for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

We could not expect many to arrive before 1 p.m. on 21st June, as the Service of Rededication in Salisbury Cathedral and march past was not due to finish until after 12.30. The flood of cars and motor coaches was quickly sorted out into four parks by **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Raynor's** able marshals. Fifty Generals and Brigadiers, all in mufti, in the Red Park, please. No, they will not have any special sticker on the window, some will have red, some yellow, from the Salisbury parking. We didn't dare chance yet another sticker.

The weather was glorious, and by 2 p.m. nearly everyone had arrived. The bars and buffet tents soon filled, and emptied, as the public address system announced that the School was now open for inspection. The Q.M. Technical Department became a shopping arcade, souvenior mugs at 32/6 each, and 'Through to 1970,' together with all the other items available from R.H.Q. were on sale (we took over £250). The Corps Philatelic Officer, **Major (Retd.) Shoubridge,** was there, selling more one-day covers.

Everyone paid a visit to the Museum. The bronze plaque, unveiled by **Princess Anne,** a few weeks before, was near the entrance to Princess Mary Hall, where continuous film shows entertained all age groups. One could rest a minute at many points round the School and watch the closed circuit television. Between the 'commercials,' plugging Corps articles for sale, visitors saw recordings made of the Royal visit on 5th June. The Library area had become another museum. The T.A.V.R. displayed their silver trophies and uniforms of the past. Yeomanry and other famous Regiments were represented. Many of the items were priceless; an insurance cover of £50,000 was modest. Below the UHF tower and stretching up to the new 30th Signal Regiment area, visitors were able to have a look at BRUIN, E21, Comcens, Snocats, and a variety of other exhibits. 'Monty's' ACV was there (towed from its usual place) and the ice cream van was nearby. Tea time started almost as soon as the last lunch was served. The Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry took up their place in front of the buffet tent to play until the Corps Band was ready to introduce the finalé —a combined display by the Band and the Motor Cycle Display team. By this time our visitors had swelled to over the 2,000 mark. The dais, specially built for the royal visit, began to fill, flanked by the senior retired members of the Corps, founder members and their families.

The Motor Cycle Display team put on their fourth show in less than three weeks at the School. The Band played Retreat and soon came the farewells; the car parks emptied, the weather stayed fine and a lot of happy visitors left a lot of well-satisfied hosts.

Postscript

The British Red Cross representative wrote to say:

"My members much enjoyed the 21st. You will have heard that we had four cuts, one minor burn and one lost child. Having so few casualties, I understand my members gave those we did get, the 'full treatment.' One soldier, with a slight burn, was also treated for shock, given sal-volatile, hot sweet tea etc., and only narrowly escaped being bedded down on a stretcher for the rest of the afternoon."

Congratulatory Messages

Received by the Corps in its 50th Anniversary Year

From the Chief of Staff, United States Army

Dear General Scott,

On behalf of the United States Army, I extend heartiest congratulations to the officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals on the occasion of the Corps' 50th Anniversary.

For the past half-century, the Royal Corps of Signals has achieved a distinguished record of combat support and communciations progress, a record of which you can be justly proud. Your comrades in arms in the United States have benefited greatly from our close association and co-operation, and we look forward to a continuation of our relationship in the years ahead. You have my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,
W. C. Westmoreland,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

From the Director of Signals, German Army

Dear General Pentreath,

On 28th June, 1970, the Royal Corps of Signals is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to convey to you and all the members of your proud Corps the best congratulations of the German Army Signal Corps for this day of celebration. I am sure the long tradition of your Corps will provide you with energy and confidence to cope with the future tasks in the defence of the free world. The German Army Signal Corps is very proud to actively take part, side by side with the Royal Corps of Signals in this effort.

With my best regards and wishes to you and all the members of the Royal Corps of Signals, I am

Sincerely your,
Straden,
Brigadegeneral.

From the Signal Officer-in-Chief, Indian Army

For S.O.-in-C. Army from S.O.-in-C.

Deeply regret inability to visit U.K. due exigencies of service. On the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals. I extend, on behalf of Corps of Signals, India, hearty greetings and felicitations on this historic occasion. We look forward to a further strengthening of the Association and bonds of friendship between our Corps.

From the Colonel Commandant, Corps of Signals, Pakistan Army

On memorable and historic occasion of Royal Signals Jubilee to commemorate its 50th Anniversary, I send to all ranks of Royal Signals message of felicitations from my Corps of Signals, Pakistan Army. It is a matter of pride that you have made magnificent progress in making Royal Signals a highly efficient Corps worthy of its great name. Members of my Corps of Signals have had unbreakable ties with the the Officers and men of Royal Signals, and those of them who have fought in World War II, shoulder to shoulder, as blood brothers, cherish happy memories of their common past. May your great Corps further prosper by leaps and bounds, and may the existing bonds of mutual friendship and regards be further strengthened with every passing year.

—**Akbar,** Colonel Commandant.

From the Director of Naval Signals

All Naval Communicators offer their sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Psalms 147.15.—*"He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; His word runneth very swiftly."*

From the Chief Royal Engineer

In this Jubilee Year may I, for myself, and on behalf of the Corps as a whole, offer you our heartiest congratulations, our best wishes and our hopes for a brilliant future.

The Royal Engineers very kindly presented a President's hand-bell for use within the H.Q. Mess.

From the Secretary, City and Guilds Institute

Congratulations and good wishes to all members on 50th Anniversary formation of Royal Signals.

* * *

Suitable replies have been sent to all these messages. The Biblical reference in the Royal Naval message was countered with Proverbs 1.14.

"Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse."

Catterick Celebrates in Great Style!

See pictures on pages 362/363 for photographic record

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORPS

THE Training Brigade celebrations, held to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Corps, were probably the last of the many held to mark this occasion. However, it was most fitting that those held in Catterick Camp occurred on the 28th June, exactly 50 years to the day that King George V signed the Royal Warrant authorising the formation of a "Corps to be entitled 'Corps of Signals,'" for Catterick, after all, is the traditional home of Royal Signals. Through Catterick pass all the soldiers of the Corps at some time or another, and if not now, all the officers, at least a very large proportion. May we therefore hope all ranks in the Corps had a very happy birthday, and we send our congratulations to 'The Wire' on its 50th anniversary.

Visit of Major-General Obedul Rehman

The week of celebrations began with the visit of the Director of Signals, Pakistan, **Major-General Rehman,** who spent the Tuesday with 11th and 24th Signal Regiments, Whilst with 11th Regiment, he watched the latest recruit squad pass off the square. The parade was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Cleland,** and was held unusually on a Tuesday in order that the recruit squad might play its part in the 'At Home' and Reunion at the weekend.

Sergeants' Mess Ball

To mark the 50th Anniversary, the officers of the Royal Signals Mess, Catterick, gave up their Mess for the evening of Tuesday, 23rd June, to the Sergeants of the Brigade, in order that they might hold their celebration ball. The setting of the old H.Q. Mess provided an appropriate background for a very splendid evening.

Visit of the Master of Signals

On Wednesday, 24th June, the Brigade was visited for the last time by the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott.** After a morning in which he visited Brigade Headquarters, saw the new trade training building and visited 8th Signal Regiment, the **Master** and **Lady Scott** took lunch with the Warrant Officers of the Brigade in 11th Signal Regiment's Mess. The Master, speaking after lunch, said that one of the best legacies the Corps originally inherited from the Royal Engineers was a very high calibre of senior N.C.O., a legacy which appeared to have been carried on into the present day if the company in which he found himself was anything to go by. The occasion was one which was naturally becoming of a Headquarters Sergeants' Mess.

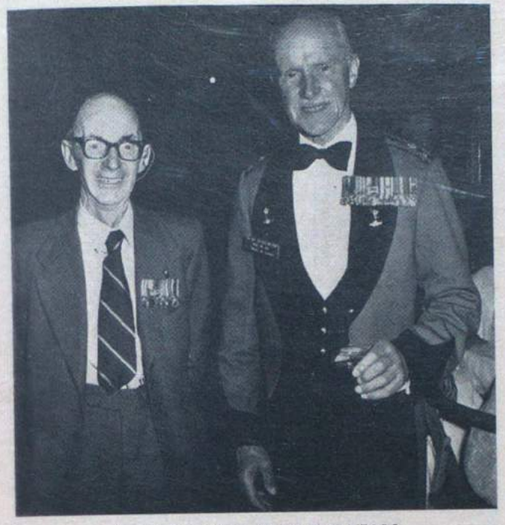
Officers' Ball

On the evening of Thursday, 25th June, the Master of Signals with the Brigade Commander received officers and their ladies at a ball held in the Royal Signals Officers' Mess. A marquee had been erected for the occasion on the car park in front of the Mess and dancing took place to two bands, although probably the most popular spot was a corner of the Mess converted into an underwater discotheque. Carriages, it was said, would be at 5 a.m., although members of the Brigade staff were seen sweeping or being swept out considerably later.

AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE BALL
The Master of Signals cuts the 50th anniversary cake

'At Home' and Reunion

Saturday, 27th June, saw a gathering in Catterick Camp of some 1,500 Old Comrades bent on celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their Corps. Numbered amongst these were five serving or retired Generals, eleven Brigadiers and numerous other officers and soldiers. Saturday, however, also saw the weather, ever a subject of comment in Catterick, play us fickle. After two months of almost cloudless sunshine, rain fell, and continued falling, into the early evening. At 6.45, with 15 minutes to go before the start of the celebrations in the form of playing 'Retreat' and with rain still falling, **Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood,** Commanding Officer, 11th Signal Regiment, made what might be described as a seaman-like decision and declared the occasion to be ON. His decision was fully justified, and the combined bands of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, and the Staff Band of the Corps gave a splendid display. After the 'Retreat' all ranks dispersed to



LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS
The Master of Signals meets Mr. A. Hargreaves, age 73, of Wallasey who opened the Display Team's show on a 1920 'trusty' Triumph

their various Messes, and after a buffet supper in the Officers' Mess, the **Master of Signals** and **Major-Generals Moberly, Whistler, Bradley** and **Price** accompanied by the **Brigade Commander,** toured the three Sergeants' Messes to meet Old Comrades. On arrival at 8th Regiment's Mess, the Master was greeted by an Old Comrade to whom he had spoken 50 years previously, and he was especially delighted, later on in the evening to meet his old groom of pre-war days.

If the sun of the following Sunday morning was a little too bright for some of the old comrades and their hosts it served admirably to set off the colours of the uniforms and ladies dresses of those attending the church parade. After a stirring service in St. Martin's Church, at which the sermon was preached by the Reverend Charles Nettleship, the Old Comrades formed up and led by a sturdy phalanx of founder members marched past the Master of Signals and on to their annual general meeting in North Hall.

At the annual general meeting **Brigadier Tucker** presenting the Master with two pictures to commemorate his tenure in that post, quoted from the official programme of the weekend the following: "**Major General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** our first Master of Signals who hands over on 1st August this year after nine years in the appointment, has served with R.E. Signals and Royal Signals since 1917. His career has spanned the whole history of our Corps."

On the Sunday afternoon with a brisk breeze stirring the flags and bunting, most of the Brigade and the old comrades foregathered to watch a display on Messines Sports Ground. An appropriate item was the release of 4,000 pigeons in a race in which the first prize was 50 new penny silver pieces donated by the Royal Signals Association. There followed then a display of drill by the most recent recruit squad who combined both the normal passing off parade routine with a display of continuation drill. An unarmed combat demonstration was given by 216 Parachute Squadron and shortly afterwards had every small boy in the crowd attempting to kick his neighbour's trouser seat. Although we were unable to have the planned helicopter display a demonstration of supply dropping was given by **Major Keith Wilson,** Royal Signals, of 15th Army Air Corps Flight from Topcliffe. He provided a moment of excitement when one load detaching itself from its parachute hurtled to the ground, fortunately beyond the crowd. Further thrills were provided in their usually polished

TYPICAL OF ALL THE EFFORT PUT IN TO MAKE THE WEEKEND AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS
A Gammon decorated with the Corps Cap badge. The centre piece of the Cold Buffet served to Old Comrades at Catterick Camp 28th June 1970. The Gammon was decorated by Lance-Corporal K. Swinburne, A.C.C. 8th Signal Regiment

manner by the Corps Display Team, **Captain Barry Rowe,** the Team Commander, adding an unusual note by hurriedly dismounting from his machine shortly after passing through the fire jump.

Lining the edge of the arena were a number of sideshows, one of the most attractive of which was a highly technical method (as might be imagined from 8th Signal Regiment) of tipping two girls out of bed. Also present was a field post office providing the special first day covers to commemorate the 50th Anniversary. Envelopes bearing the first day cover were dispatched to every Chief Signal Officer, Group Commander and also to **Brigadier Clarkson,** the previous Brigade Commander. Throughout the afternoon the band of 34th (V) Signal Regiment provided incidental music. The afternoon closed with the Corps band playing the Sunset Ceremony at which the salute was taken by **Brigadier Tucker,** Chairman of the Royal Signals Association.

Freedom Ceremony

On Thursday, 2nd July, the Brigade exercised the Corps' right to march through the Borough of Richmond with bands

FREEDOM OF RICHMOND CEREMONY
Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E. (late of the Corps), Mayor of Richmond, takes the salute at the March Past. Flanking him Brigadiers Hutchins and Tighe

playing, flags flying, swords drawn and bayonets fixed. Unfortunately the occasion was marred by rain during the actual March Past and despite a break in the weather which enabled the playing of Retreat to commence in the castle grounds the ceremony had to be curtailed as the day deteriorated into pouring rain. Despite their exterior dampness, the officers of the Brigade entertained the Mayor of Richmond, **Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.,** late of the Corps, and the Aldermen and Councillors of Richmond to a party which we hope succeeded in dampening their interiors.

The Future

Lest it be thought that in celebrating the last 50 years we are looking backwards let me conclude this account by giving you a few of the highlights of the future. As can be seen from every poster advertising the Royal Tournament the display team has the place of honour this year. It goes without saying that our band is also featured. The end of October sees the amalgamation or rather the combination of 8th and 24th Signal Regiment into a new and larger unit to be known as 8th Signal Regiment. The new unit will carry on the duties of both Regiments. In November we are due to put on a 10 minute presentation in the Albert Hall at the Remembrance Day commemoration, which will be televised. In the early Spring of next year the new trade training block will be completed and for the first time almost all trade training in the Corps will be located under the same roof.

In the meantime the usual routine of sports days, trade boards, exercises, recruiting displays, orienteering meetings, swimming galas, trade training, Pass off parades and the many other every day activities of the Training Brigade will have each to itself, its important hour.

A happy ceremony marking the Corps' Golden Jubilee Year

Presentation to H.Q. 38 Group R.A.F.

AS the date of our Golden Jubilee approached, it was suggested that this would be a good opportunity to mark the close association which the Corps has had with the Royal Air Force throughout its history. It was felt that this would be particularly appropriate in 38 Group, since 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) forms part of 38 Group Support Unit and comes under the operational command of the A.O.C.

Accordingly, plans were made and it was decided to make a presentation to the Headquarters of the Group at Odiham on a day as close as possible to the 28th June. Friday, the 26th, was chosen, and as it turned out, this was only two days after the new Air Officer Commanding 38 Group, **Air Vice Marshal D. Crowley-Milling, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F.,** took up his appointment, and thus the presentation was one of his first official engagements.

At mid-day, **Major John Booth,** G.S.O.2 Signals at H.Q., 38 Group, **Captain Bill Price,** Second-in-Command of 244 Squadron, **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Alan Tasker, Corporal Michael Waterworth** and **Signalman Alistair Davidson,** representing all ranks of the Corps serving in the Group, were invited to the A.O.C.'s office. **Air Marshal Crowley-Milling** was introduced to his visitors by **Major Booth,** who then gave a short address. He said: "The day after tomorrow, the 28th of June, is a special day in the history of the Royal Corps of Signals, for on this day, 50 years ago, the **Right Honourable Winston Churchill,** as Secretary of State for War, signed the Army Order which published the Royal Warrant authorising the formation of a Corps of Signals in the Army.

"As I am sure you are aware, the Corps acknowledges its existence to the development of military communication under the guiding hand of the Royal Engineers, and it is of interest to recall that the formation of a Signal Wing at the School of Military Engineering took place just over a hundred years ago, in 1869, and the first mobile telegraph detachment was raised a year later. In 1912, another branch of the Royal Engineers became the Royal Flying Corps, and this, in due course, led to the formation of the Royal Air Force in April, 1918. At this juncture it is significant to note that, concurrent with the appearance of this new Service, the first Army Signal Units were allocated to the R.A.F., and thus, even before the separate existence of the Corps, the principle of 'Air Formation Signals' was established.

"It would take far too long to trace, even in outline, the varied history of communications which Royal Signals has provided for the R.A.F. up to the present day, but the last 50 years have seen many different methods of discharging our duties in this regard. Recently, measures have been taken which can only serve to bring us into even closer contact, and nowhere, Sir, is this more evident than in this Group, where you now have an idependent Royal Signals Squadron under operational command.

"Accordingly, Sir, bearing in mind our common heritage and the ties of Service, which are as old as our existence, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals, the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Signalmen serving in No. 38 Group, Royal Air Force, on the 28th June, 1970, desire to commemorate the long and continuing association between Royal Signals and the Royal Air Force by presenting to Headquarters No. 38 Group this representative figure in token of our lasting loyalty and friendship and in acknowledgement of our increasing inter-depedence. We look forward to an ever-widening understanding of each other's capabilities and a deeper involvement in our joint endeavours, to the mutual benefit of communications in both the Army and the Royal Air Force and in the service of our Queen and Country."

Signalman Davidson stepped forward and presented the A.O.C. with a model of a Royal Signals Officer in ceremonial dress, mounted on a plinth bearing the dates 1920-1970. A framed and illuminated address describing the occasion and its historical significance accompanied the statuette.

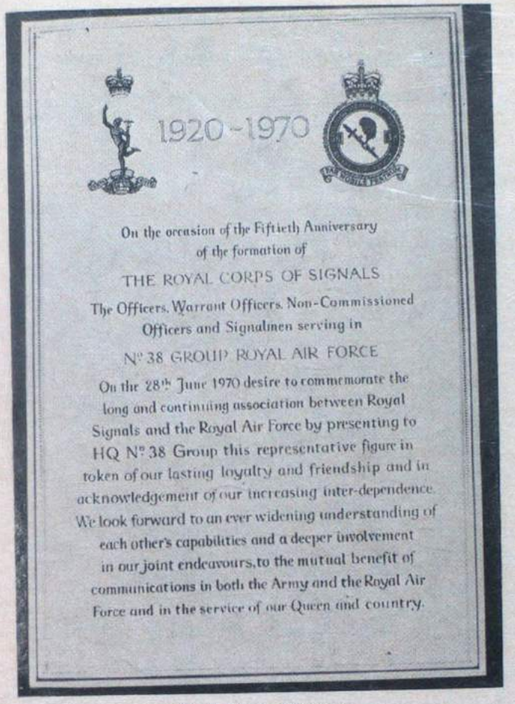
The A.O.C., expressing his thanks for the presentation, congratulated the Corps on attaining its first fifty years. He said that while the means of communication had improved out of all recognition, what really mattered was the ability to communicate, and in 38 Group this had reached a high standard. He and the Group were delighted to be associated with the Corps at this point in our history and he wished us the very best of good fortune in the years ahead.

A.V.M. Crowley-Milling receives the Statuette from Signalman Davidson. Also in picture (*left to right*) Major Booth (just visible), Corporal Waterworth, Group Captain Yetman, Group Captain Hume

Refreshments were served, and the Air Marshal and senior members of his staff who were present, talked to those in the presentation party. **Captain Price** is a qualified pilot and **Corporal Waterworth,** as well as being parachute trained, has been accepted for pilot training, so there were some points of common interest. It will be of interest to know that **Air Marshal Crowley-Milling** was a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain and flew with the legendary **Group Captain Douglas Bader.**

In addition to the piece presented to the Headquarters, some commemorative paperweights had been manufactured by a special process operated by **Yeoman Tasker,** and one of these was given to each Head of Branch in the Headquarters, the Station Commander of R.A.F. Odiham and at Tangmere, where 244 Squadron is stationed, the Station Commander and O.C. Tactical Communications Wing. These paperweights are highly decorative and original, and the Yeoman is to be congratulated on a fine job.

Thus another landmark in the Group's history was observed and future visitors to H.Q. 38 Group may care to look at what we hope will be a permanent reminder of the close ties which exist between the Corps and the Royal Air Force.



The Illuminated Address

One of the commemorative paper weights made by W.O.II (Y. of S.) Tasker, 244 Signal Squadron

A Message the Corps Will Appreciate

Sir,

The Keeper of Archives and Libraries at the Imperial War Museum directs me to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, receipt of the Jubilee Edition of THE WIRE, the Royal Signals Magazine.

Together with his thanks for your past generosity, the Keeper wishes to proffer to the Corps, through your good offices, sir, his congratulations upon the anniversary of its Golden Jubilee. He is confident that the celebration of your Diamond Jubilee in 1980 will show the Corps to be as efficient and as lively as it is now, and he looks forward with the keenest pleasure, not only to the issues of THE WIRE during the next decade, but for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Lucas
(for Keeper of Archives and Libraries)

Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, London, S.E.1.

Sincere Thanks

Salisbury/Blandford, 21st June, 1970

Colonel John Collins, Chairman of the Southampton Branch writes.—

Sir,

Would you kindly pass on the most sincere thanks of our Southampton Branch for such a memorable Anniversary day. On the bus back, I heard nothing but praise and gratefulness for all that was done to include and please the Old Comrades (and their wives and children).

Without enumerating or listing all our pleasures, I think we could sum it up by saying that, firstly, the whole theme of the day was right, and secondly, that the atmosphere everywhere was smiling and friendly.

Many old soldiers conceded that rigidity is not essential to high efficiency and they were quick to notice the calibre of Warrant Officers, N.C.O.s and men who were so courteous to them yesterday.

So we send our congratulations and special thanks to R.H.Q., Regular and Territorial Royal Signals with much pride in being associated with you all.

I am sure you will allow our message to reach every man who gave us such a memorable day.

For me, of course, it was a delight to see and meet many old friends of my own.

Yours etc.

John Collins, Colonel (Rtd.)

The Limes,
Swanmore,
Southampton.

(This letter sums up very aptly the theme of many letters of appreciation received in connection with this memorable day in the history of the Corps — Editor).

Generosity

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during June, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
Catterick Garrison Thrift Shop	250	0	0
Glasgow Branch Royal Signals Association (Building fund)	50	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. F. Paton, O.B.E.	10	0	0
Colonel R. G. L. Giblin, O.B.E.	1	0	0
W. G. J. Kidson, Esq.	1	0	0
K. O. Walters, Esq.	1	0	0
Various small donations	5	0	
Total ...	£313	5	0
Expenditure during June, 1970	£1,207	6	11

Thanks to the Day's Pay Scheme, this gap has been comfortably bridged.

VICTORY AT LAST – AND IN THE CORPS' JUBILEE YEAR!

Corps Marksmen Win Methuen Cup — most sought after Trophy at Bisley — against all comers

The winning team, all smiles: *left to right:* Captain Genders, Corporal Blowman, Lieutenant McLean, Corporal Jaques, Major Carr (Capt.) Staff Sergeant Smith and Major Cox (coach)
Trophies: REME Trophy, Methuen Cup, Woolwich Trophy

Bisley – 1970

All will be delighted with the outstanding Corps successes at Bisley this year, particularly winning the Methuen Cup. Years of patient training and preparation by previous Captains of Shooting, notably **Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Walsh,** have at last achieved the great break-through—and in the Corps Golden Jubilee year, too!

THE WIRE, on behalf of its readers, warmly congratulates all those who have built up Corps Shooting to the pinnacle of 1970.

Main Corps Successes A.R.A. Central Meeting, Bisley, 1970

In top 100 for Army Championship.—5th, **Corporal Blowman** (30th Signal Regiment); 12th, **Captain Genders** (4th Division Signal Regiment); 13th, **Staff Sergeant Smith** 21st Signal Regiment); 15th, **Corporal Jaques** (30th Signal Regiment) 2nd, Class B; 17th, **Lieutenant McLean** (30th Signal Regiment); 67th, **Major Carr** (School of Signals); 80th, **Signalman Cook** (11th Signal Regiment); 97th, **Corporal Purkiss** (30th Signal Regiment); 100th, **Lieutenant Reed** (21st Signal Regiment), did not fire final match—rushed back to B.A.O.R. for athletics championship).

Corps Teams. — Methuen Cup (964, clear lead of 30 over R.A.O.C. 934 and Para Regiment 901). R.E.M.E. Trophy, Woolwich Trophy.

Unit Teams.—1st, Target Rifle Team, School of Signals. 1st, Brooke Bond Cup, 30th Signal Regiment; 2nd, Brooke Bond Cup, 21st Signal Regiment; 2nd, Royal Ulster Rifles Cup (falling plates), 21st Signal Regiment.

Individuals.—Bisley Cup (Target Rifle), 1st, **Colonel H. J.** Thompson, ex-Royal Signals; 2nd, **Major Carr,** School of Signals).

B.S.A. (500 yards).—3rd, **Captain Genders** (4th Division Signal Regiment).

Since going to press, news has come in of many other successes, including winning the African Cup for the best overall Service team. Full details in the next 'Wire.'

Stop Press

Another 1970 Success!

21st. Regiment Win Army Team Athletics

As we go to press, very welcome news has come in of the above victory at Aldershot on 29th July. In a storming finish in the 4 x 400 metres event, the 21st Regiment made the possibility of beating their rivals, 19th Field Regiment, R.A., a certainty—the final score being 21st Regiment, 89 points; 19th Field Regiment, R.A., 83½ points. Judging from the applause, it was a very popular win.

At the same meeting, the 7th Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron gained a very worthy second place in the Minor Units' Championship.

8th Signal Regiment, who rather unexpectedly found themselves in the finals, due to other units dropping out because of duty in Northern Ireland, did their best against much stronger rivals and finished fifth in the major units event.

More details in next WIRE.

From our "In" Tray

50th Anniversary

First Commandant, School of Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel O. C. Mordaunt, D.S.O.

Sir,

When reading the School's 50th Anniversary article, I was most interested to see the name of the first Commandant of the School in 1920, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mordaunt,** as I knew him well in his later years.

In 1941, at the age of 15, I joined the local Home Guard, the 38th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, in Wadhurst, Sussex. On the strength of an O.T.C. Cadet Signal Course at Catterick, I was asked to form a Signal Platoon.

One of the first persons I met in this embryo platoon was **Colonel Mordaunt.** People joked that the Home Guard consisted of over 60s and under 16s, and this was literally true in the case of **Colonel Mordaunt** and I, but despite an age difference of more than 50 years, we got on together wonderfully well. I was still at school, of course, but for about two years, every spare moment was taken up with 'my' Signal Platoon, and I was eventually promoted to Corporal.

Colonel Mordaunt was a tall, spare, very erect figure, with snowy white hair and a full moustache. Although dressed as a private, he looked every inch the Colonel, and was always addressed as such. He was a great asset because of his many contacts. We had no proper signal equipment and had to make do by scrounging. The Returned Stores Depot at Woolwich was a source of condemned field cable and obsolete radios which we refurbished. The Canadian 1st Division, billeted in our village, helped with training. **Colonel Mordaunt** fixed all the deals at a level that I would have trembled to approach.

Despite his experience and his knowledge of signalling, he was most kind and generous to me and our platoon of amateurs. He was always ready with support, and was genuinely interested in what we were doing. In retrospect, I am impressed that he should have bothered with such small fry, yet he did it so well that I accepted his help without question, and the precarious authority of my two stripes was never in jeopardy.

In 1943 I left school and the Home Guard to go to Oxford, and on arrival there I received a charming letter from **Colonel Mordaunt,** accompanied by a much-appreciated cheque for five guineas! I kept in touch for a time, but **Colonel Mordaunt** died in the late '40s I believe.

He was very proud of the part he played in forming the Corps, and in being the first Commandant of the School at Maresfield in 1920. It was due to his example and encouragement that I joined Royal Signals.

I should be interested to hear from any member of the Association who served at Maresfield in the 1920s, and who might be able to describe **Colonel Mordaunt** as he was then.

Yours etc.,

J. A. D. Francis, Lieutenant-Colonel.
Office of the United Kingdom Military Representative,
NATO Buildings, Brussels.

Has Jimmy's world gone slightly askew?

Sir,

It is no little concern that rouses me to write a letter to the Editor to expose a serious misrepresentation — even worse, an imposter who has found his way into the very heart of the Corps Regimental Headquarters.

The official badge of The Royal Corps of Signals is defined in Corps Memoranda and the pattern is that drawn by **Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd.) C. H. Patrick, O.B.E.** This was varied to up-date the crown in 1954.

So far so good but look with care. Things are not what they were. The Corps transfers, the Central Office of Information official photographs and the many publications which make use of the latter reveal an infiltrator.

The globe has turned through 25 degrees and instead of a view of the Indian Ocean as seen perhaps by the Skynet satellite, it shows, to the fore, Rhodesia (odd that!). No wonder on the Corps transfer the globe turns a delicate shade of blue.

But worse is to come: a gelded Mercury. Every full-blooded signalman will know that is wrong. If it were all behind a fig leaf no one would be any the wiser but it is not.

The time has come Mr. Editor for action and I enclose PV 300 for completion for immediate PV clearance. If, as I suspect, an imposter is discovered he should be shown the door back into King's Road whence perhaps he came.

Yours etc.

M. C. Deverill, Major

M.O.D.,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

BE BIG — BUY YOUR OWN COPY OF THE WIRE!

Can you help?

An ex-W.O.II of the Corps and a Life Member of the Association writes:

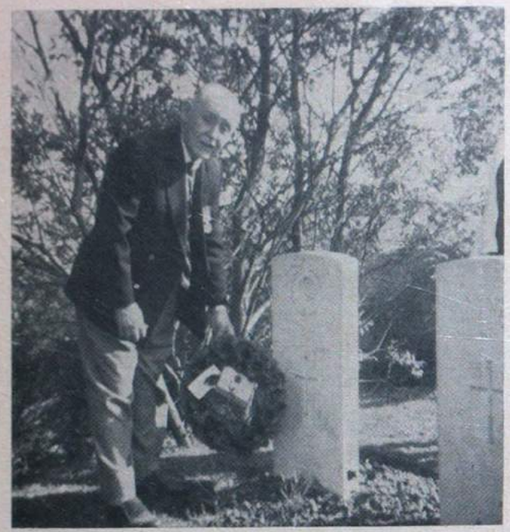
"I have been given the opportunity to purchase the bungalow, of which I am the tenant, and would very much like to retire here. Unfortunately, I have only small savings, and my age of 61 has prevented me from raising a mortgage or a loan. Is there any serving or ex-serving member of Royal Signals who would care to buy the property and allow me to continue as tenant. The bungalow is situated in Surrey. It is freehold and has two bedrooms, kitchen, lounge and bathroom, garage and fair-sized garden. Price £5,500, but believe a lower sum might be accepted."

Any letters received will be forwarded on by the Editor of THE WIRE.

Dunkirk Homage to the fallen

"We remember the past so that the present can enjoy the Future"

Wreaths on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals were laid at the British Cemetery in Dunkirk and at Lestrum-La-Paradis when the Dunkirk Veterans' Association made their annual pilgrimage — the 30th anniversary of the withdrawal from Dunkirk—to pay their homage to their fallen comrades. Two hundred veterans made the journey, and this number was swelled when they were joined in France by many hundreds of French Veterans. Among the British party was **Major-General D. A. L. Wade, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,** Chairman of the



Mr. F. Steel of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association laying a wreath on behalf of the Corps at the cemetery at Lestrum-La-Paradis

Dunkirk Veterans' Association. Both wreaths were laid by **Mr. F. Steel,** an ex-Corps man; the first being laid in the British Cemetery at Dunkirk and the second at Lestrum-La-Paradis, near the spot where 97 English and French troops lost their lives after surrendering their arms to the enemy. Here, on the wall of the farm where this tragic event took place, a plaque was unveiled by **Madame Greton** who, at the time, was responsible for saving the only two survivors. Among those present at the unveiling were a representative of the British Ambassador, a French Deputy of the Senate, and one of the survivors, **Bill O'Callaghan,** formerly of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. **Mr. Steel's** address is: 15 Capel Gardens, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex.

Nobby — The Horse that was bought out of the ranks

CAN YOU SPOT ANYONE YOU KNOW HERE?
These are the 'farrier chaps' who would probably have made Nobby's (see May/June Wire) new boots somewhere back in the early 1920's at Maresfield. The photograph was sent us by Mr. T. C. White, 4 Park View Road, Helston, Cornwall

Recognition for Linemen

The high level of skill and knowledge of our Linemen has long been appreciated within the Corps. Recognition has now come from the City and Guilds of London Institute.

From 1st January, 1971, onwards, Linemen who attend the II-I Course in 8th Signal Regiment, and who pass the Trade Test successfully, will become eligible for the award of the City and Guilds Certificates in ELEMENTARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE and LINE PLANT PRACTICE 'A.'

The Institute has approved the Course and Trade Test on an 'assessed examination' basis. This means that each trade test paper will be submitted to an external assessor who will ensure that the questions and marking scheme are up to the Institute's standards. In due course, successful candidates will receive their certificates direct from the Institute in London.

The present trade test standards for Class I Linemen are not being altered in any way as a result of this certification.

It is regretted that these arrangements will only apply to those who pass their courses after 1st January, 1971.

REUNION DINNER, FRIDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 1970

29th Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (Korea). Enquiries to: **W.O.I (R.S.M.) H. Jennings,** 30th Signal Regimen, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

Obituary

MAJOR WILLIAM SIMPSON

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of **Major Bill Simpson,** who died suddenly on 24th June, after playing in a tennis match against the A.A.C., Harrogate. The funeral service was held on 30th June at St. Aidan's Church, Catterick, followed by interment, with full military honours, at Hipswell Cemetery.

Bill was born at Larbert, Stirlingshire, on 29th August, 1930, and was educated at Falkirk High and Queen Elizabeth School, Barnet. He was commissioned from Eaton Hall O.C.S. into the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and served with his Battalion in the Canal Zone from 1950-54. In 1954 he was awarded a regular commission in the Corps and joined No. 13 Subalterns Part I Course at the O.T.W. It was during this period that he met his future wife, Lesley, the younger daughter of **Lieutenant-Colonel K. A. Nash,** Royal Signals.

He then served with 3rd Division Signal Regiment, followed by a tour as Adjutant of 16th Signal Regiment. Bill was then appointed Adjutant of the Junior Leaders' Regiment before taking up an instructional appointment at the School in 1963. He then served with 4th Division Signal Regiment and 14th Signal Regiment before being posted, in 1967, to 24th Signal Regiment, where he commanded 3 Squadron.

Bill took a keen and active interest in sport, especially hockey and tennis; he also found time to pursue his particular hobby of gardening.

He will be missed by his many friends, both within the Corps and outside, and by the many trainees who, during the last 2½ years passed through his Squadron at 24th Signal Regiment. The encouragement and help which he gave inspired many to overcome their difficulties, and his cheerful, considerate and understanding nature earned him the respect and confidence of all who served with him.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Lesley, and his children, Fiona, Ian, Richard, Peter and Alisdair.

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.

No need for bright sparks to fiddle about with this

Our GA.481 is the only all-solid-state 100 W broadband linear amplifier in full scale production. It covers the 1.5 to 30 MHz range and can be used with any HF manpack to form a 100 W man-portable or vehicle station.

It measures 12¼" × 12" × 4¾" and operates from its own battery or from a 24V vehicle supply, without the need for a converter. But the big point is that there are no tuning or loading controls to adjust. And as it's fully protected against excessive drive and cannot be damaged by mismatches such as broken or short circuited aerials, there's nothing much to go wrong.

The GA.481 has already been supplied to British and Overseas Armed Forces and is in quantity production. Now.

Redifon Limited, Communications Division, Broomhill Road, London S.W.18.

REDIFON

A Member Company of the Rediffusion Organisation

The 8th Regiment looks back with pride on a distinguished past

WHILE the Corps in general was celebrating its 50th Anniversary, 8th Signal Regiment was quietly smiling to itself at the antics of these 'youngsters.' For in August of this year we shall be celebrating our 51st anniversary as a Lieutenant-Colonel's command. As this fact is unique among the Regiments of the Corps, we feel that special mention must be made of 8th Signal Regiment and its long contribution to the Royal Corps of Signals.

Highlights of the years

A full Regimental history of the last 51 years would fill 'The Wire' by itself; moreover, the early days of the Regiment are poorly recorded; this failure to produce adequate historical records was the subject of some acrimonious correspondence with Royal Signals Records in 1923! We have, therefore, contented ourselves with highlighting some of the major events of these years and recording a little human detail which we hope will stir a few memories and perhaps inspire one or two letters to the Editor.

The beginning of the Regiment was in 1914, when the Northern Telegraph Companies Royal Engineers Territorial Force was embodied, and from this and other Telegraph Companies was formed the Signal Service Training Centre, Royal Engineers. The Regiment came into existence on 18th August, 1919, when a Training Battalion was formed at Maresfield, Sussex, from the depots of the S.S.T.C., these depots becoming Companies of this 1st Training Battalion. The first Commanding Officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Harry Llewellyn Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O.** It is interesting to note that Sir Harry was the son of **Major Sir Arthur W. Mackworth,** who gained fame as O.C. 'C' Troop (the first regular Telegraph Troop, R.E.) at the battle of Tel-el-Kabir in 1882. At this battle, 'C' Troop provided the first telephones used in the field for military purposes, the telephone only having been invented six years previously.

In the beginning—strange-sounding trades

On the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals in 1920, the Battalion became 1st Training Battalion Royal Corps of Signals. The unit's responsibilities included the training of some—to us—strange-sounding trades, such as Visual Operator, Saddler and Farrier, and existing records for 'E' Company reveal that the Company held some 172 men and 217 horses—the latter classified under chargers, riders and draught! **Lieutenant W. A. Scott,** who was to become the First Master of Signals, and had been with the Company since its formation, left in March, 1921, for India.

In 1920, a second Training Battalion was raised to re-train soldiers who had been paid a substantial bounty to re-enlist to meet the operational requirements caused by the Iraqi Rebellion. In 1922, this 2nd Training Battalion amalgamated with the 1st to become the Training Battalion and was soon some 2,500 strong. In these days the soldiers' chances of an overseas posting were considerably better than today; included were such places as Iraq, Constantinople (Istanbul to the youngsters), Mauritius, Jamaica, West Africa, Yugoslavia, Palestine, Shanghai, India *and* Rhine Army.

Recruiting over the period was so good that it had to be halted for five months, and the time-honoured difficulties were being experienced: "There was at times considerable delay, first before commencement of riding and then before commencement of technical training . . . great difficulty was experienced owing to the serious shortage of N.C.O.s" 1925 was an important year for the Battalion. On 15th January it was split to form a Training and Depot Battalion, and from thence forward ceased to take on recruits and was responsible for trade training only. At midnight on 7th September, the Battalion entrained for Catterick Camp, Yorkshire. After 15 hours in the train, the Battalion marched from Catterick Bridge Station to the camp, and occupied 'S' and 'T' Lines, subsequently renamed 'Vimy' and 'Kemmel.'

From Maresfield to Catterick

In 1926 an attempt was made to 'rationalise' the training of recruits, and training and administration were separated. The Company Commanders ceased to be responsible for training, which was taken over by a training cadre for the whole Battalion. **Second-Lieutenants K. C. O. Bastyn, E. L. L. Vulliamy** and **E. D. Good,** who had recently joined the Battalion on first commissioning, left for India, and were replaced by **Second-Lieutenants J. E. S. Saunders** and **E. S. Cole.** By 1929, the experiment of 1926 had proved to be a failure. Splitting of training and administration had resulted in: "a distinct lack of co-operation . . . a great deal of extra labour, confusion and some friction." The Battalion was reorganised to give the Officers and N.C.O.s dual responsibility, and this brought about smoother and more efficient working throughout the unit. This lesson, apparently, has to be relearned at frequent intervals! An interesting report was made by the C.O. in 1929, after visiting a contingent of the Boys' Company at Liverpool: "The barracks are in the slum area of Liverpool, and with the exception of a small mud patch, there were no grounds in the vicinity where the recreational training (so important for a boy) can be carried out. Undesirable women in the neighbourhood make a practice of hunting the boys. This leads to situations highly detrimental to the boys moral and physical development. A proportion of the boys look pale and soft, and form a great contrast to those from Catterick."

The Battalion was doing very well in the sporting field, even the Royal Signals Boys, despite the previous remarks of the C.O., and in 1933 a display of motor cycle trick riding by a team of motor cycle despatch riders, under the command of **Captain H. R. Firth,** was given at the Royal Tournament. In 1934, **Second-Lieutenants P. E. M. Bradley** and **A. F. McGill** joined the Regiment.

General mechanisation of Signal Units

The general mechanisation of signals units in 1936 brought about a great increase in driver training. An M.T. Training Group was proposed to train Officers and N.C.O.s, this training having been previously carried out by R.A.S.C. The regulations regarding dress and leaving barracks were relaxed—"every well-conducted soldier" being allowed to wear civilian clothes off duty and stay out till 1.00 a.m. A further relaxation in 1937 allowed any soldier over 21, whether married or not, to live out of barracks, and the personal ration scale was improved, giving a more varied diet and the provision of suppers for other ranks.

. . . and the era of the horse ends

Mounted duties training with the horse cable wagon was discontinued, and mechanical cable layers were already being introduced into service. The era of the horse finally came to an end when the wearing of breeches and spurs was discontinued in 1938.

By this time—the year of the Munich crisis—recruiting had expanded so rapidly that recruits had to be sent to field units for trade training (as happened again in 1964). At the outbreak of war in 1939, the Battalion was faced with an ever-increasing training requirement. Between them, the Training and Depot Battalions raised several Trade Training Battalions, grouped into No. 1 Signal Training Centre; the Training Battalion now being called No. 1 General Trades Training Battalion and later No. 1 Trades Training Battalion—with a strength in 1942 of 1,900 men. The Battalion also began to specialise in technician training, other trades being taken over by newly-formed Battalions. Shortages of equipment and accommodation were a constant problem. The chronicler of the day remarks regretfully that a reduction in the establishment of the A.T.S. had to be made due to accommodation shortages.

(Continued on page 345)

(Continued from page 344)

Training aids began to increase in importance, and it is recorded that: "a cathode ray oscillograph is almost a necessity for each training room now."

Towards the end of the war, the provision of equipment was steadily improving, and it is disarmingly stated that "higher authority took the view that if the unit asked for certain equipment, then it probably needed it, and sent the stuff along." (Happy days indeed!).

Winning the Army Rugby Cup eight times

In 1946 King George VI approved the redesignation of Royal Signals Battalians and Companies as Regiments and Squadrons, and the Battalion became 1st Trade Training Regiment, and was commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.** The Regiment went through another name-change in 1947 to become 1st Training Regiment, and it was under this title that its fame on the rugger field was made—it won the Army Rugby Cup eight times between 1947 and 1959. It also reached a peak strength of 2,400.

In 1948 it was decided to cease the training of Royal Signals boys, who had been part of the Regiment from the very beginning, and they were sent to the Army Apprentice School at Harrogate. After one year, recruiting of apprentices and general duty boys had increased to such an extent that Harrogate could not cope with the GD boys. They were therefore returned in 1949 to form 1 Independent Selection Squadron in Richmond, this Boys' Squadron subsequently becoming the Junior Leaders' Regiment.

The last renumbering of Royal Signals units in 1959 changed the name of the Regiment to 8th Signal Regiment. From this period on, the gradual 'civilianisation' of a large number of military posts commenced, and by 1960, the changeover of 135 posts in the Regiment had been implemented.

National Service came to an end in 1960, and with the resultant reduction in the training requirement, several of the Training Regiments had to be disbanded and the trades they taught were taken over by the remaining Regiments. Thus, in April, 1960, 12th Signal Regiment amalgamated with 8th Signal Regiment.

Throughout the Sixties, considerable efforts were made to gain recognition of Army trades by the trade unions and civilian technical institutions. The results have been most encouraging and already successful Class I technicians are awarded City and Guilds of London Certificates. This arrangement will soon be extended to Class I linemen.

On 1st November, 1970, the latest chapter in the history of the Regiment will be opened, when 8th and 24th Signal Regiments amalgamate to become 8th Signal Regiment. In 1971 the Regiment will transfer training to a fine new trade training building, built over the foundations of the original huts of 1925.

Thus the wheel will have come the full circle: 8th Signal Regiment, having existed intact for 51 years, will once again be responsible for the training of all adult tradesmen of the Royal Corps of Signals.

Commanding Officers, 1919-1970

Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Mackworth, C.M.G., D.S.O.	1919
Lieutenant-Colonel E. F. W. Barker, D.S.O.	1923
Lieutenant-Colonel A. Lloyd Owen, O.B.E., M.C.	1924
Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. F. Hitchins, D.S.O., M.C.	1929
Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. S. Tillard, O.B.E., M.C.	1932
Lieutenant-Colonel R. T. O. Cary, M.B.E.	1936
Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. du Cros, O.B.E.	1939
Lieutenant-Colonel P. B. D. H. Foot	1940
Lieutenant-Colonel M. Duke	1942
Lieutenant-Colonel C. White	1945
Lieutenant-Colonel E. V. McCormack, C.B.E.	1945
Lieutenant-Colonel P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.	1946
Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Moberly, O.B.E.	1948
Lieutenant-Colonel M. G. A. Hepper	1949
Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.	1950
Lieutenant-Colonel E. I. E. Mozley	1954
Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Lamb, O.B.E.	1955
Colonel E. C. R. Blaker, O.B.E.	1958
Colonel J. M. S. Tulloch, O.B.E.	1960
Lieutenant-Colonel S. H. McKay	1961
Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Tonry, O.B.E.	1962
Lieutenant-Colonel D. L. Swallow	1964
Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. T. Crump	1966
Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass	1968

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Communication Centres of the U.K.

H.Q. London District

THE HORSE GUARDS
The imposing building, steeped in history, which houses the Commcen for London District

The H.Q. London District Communications Centre is located in the Horse Guards Building, Whitehall, S.W.1. In terms of age, the Commcen is a mere babe-in-arms, compared to the Horse Guards Building, and it may be of interest to give the reader an idea of the place that Horse Guards Building occupies in the history of the nation.

Back to Henry VIII

During the Middle Ages, the site was occupied by York Place, the London residence of the Archbishops of York. In 1529, Henry VIII confiscated the property and established a royal palace, to which he gave the name Whitehall. The park side of the palace, or the 'Cockpit side,' as it became to be known, was mainly devoted to sport and recreation, and it was here that Henry VIII established his Cockpit, Tennis Court and Tilt Yard. The Tilt Yard was on the site of the present Horse Guards, and history records that bear-baiting seems to have been the most popular sport.

In 1648, Charles I was executed outside the Banqueting House of Whitehall Palace, but as the death of the king brought no peace to the monarchy, it was decided in 1649 to erect a guard-house in the Tilt Yard, and this was the forerunner of the later Horse Guards.

Charles II entered Whitehall on 29th May, 1660, riding in procession from Charing Cross. In 1663/64, he replaced the guard house with a large barracks, which occupied almost all the Tilt Yard and consisted of a central block surmounted by a clock tower flanked by two wings. A courtyard in front—'Horse Guards Yard,' led into the street of Whitehall and sentry boxes stood on each side of the entrance to the yard.

After the Great Fire of 1666 destroyed most of the Palace of Whitehall, it ceased to be used as a royal palace and the court moved to St. James's. In 1732-3, the barracks were redesigned, and the final rebuilding to the present design took place in 1750-1760. In this last rebuild, all the old buildings were knocked down and a final structure, designed by William Kent and John Vardy, was erected.

The Duke of Wellington knew it well

The famous Venetian window lights what was in earlier times the Commander-in-Chief's room, overlooking the central carriageway of the Horse Guards Parade. Field Marshal The Duke of Wellington, K.G., used it during his tenure as Commander-in-Chief, 1842-1852. The room is now occupied by The Major-General Commanding Household Division, who is also G.O.C. London District, and it is from this room that H.M. The Queen Mother, H.R.H. Princess Margaret and the Royal Children watch the Queen's Birthday Parade in June each year.

The main building now houses Headquarters Household Division, Headquarter London District, and Regimental Headquarters Household Cavalry.

The sentries are part of the Queen's Life Guard, provided by the Household Cavalry Regiment (Mounted) which is a composite Regiment formed from the mounted squadrons of the Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards/Dragoons.

That, then, is a brief history of the building which now houses the Royal Signals Commcen, and so now to some details and history of the Commcen itself.

Early days and a number of moves

In 1939, Headquarters Eastern Command and Headquarters London Area occupied Horse Guards, and were served by a manual telephone exchange only, as no commcen was established.

In 1940, Headquarters Eastern Command moved out to new accommodation. Headquarters London Area moved to 178 Queen's Gate, S.W.1, again being served by a manual exchange, but with no commcen being established. The next move was in 1941/42, when Headquarters London Area moved to Leconfield House, Curzon Street, W.1., and for the first time became known as Headquarters London District. A branch of the Westminster Bank was next door to Leconfield House, and in this was established a small telephone exchange and the first London District Commcen. Access to Headquarters London District was through a communicating door between the two buildings. The commcen was staffed by both A.T.S. and Royal Signals, and remained there until 1946, when it moved back to Horse Guards together with Headquarters London District.

The Commcen builds up

On arrival at Horse Guards in 1946, the Headquarters London District took over a six-position telephone exchange (eyeball indicator type) manned by A.T.S., and this was in a separate office away from the commcen, which was located

BRIEFING
Sergeant D. Bowers showing Signalman D. G. Henderson a map containing locations and SDS routes in London District

in the other wing of the building. The commcen was provided with DTN teleprinter 7B, and, together with the telephone exchange, was manned by London District Signal Troop. In 1950 the A.T.S. were withdrawn from the telephone exchange, and it was manned by civilian operators. The Supervisor was **Miss Snell,** who had supervised the exchange as an A.T.S. Corporal, and remained in post as a civilian. She was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1953, as a reward for and acknowledgement of the effort produced by the staff of the telephone exchange for the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The telephone exchange was by now showing the results of the concentrated use it had received during the war years, and in 1951 it was decided to instal a new one. A six-position PBXIA was installed and the commcen was moved into another room, the installation being completed in 1952. A futher move took place in 1956, when the telephone exchange was again moved and enlarged to eight positions.

Manning was still by London District Signal Troop, though by now it had acquired a new title, '605 Signal Troop (London District) and the civilian telephone exchange operators had been taken on to the troop establishment.

The final reorganisation took place in 1964, when a PABX No. 3 was installed. TASS teleprinters were installed, and also special soundproof hoods for the phonogram operators.

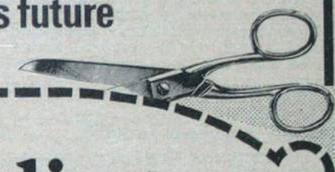
Formation of 10th Signal Regiment

In 1963, the Chief Signal Officer, Eastern Command, called for proposals for the formation of 10th (Eastern) Command Signal Regiment. The Regiment was to be formed by the amalgamation of 238 Signal Squadron (War Office), 239 Signal Squadron (Eastern Command) and 605 Signal Troop (London District). The Chief Signal Officer, London District, was persuaded to write the establishment, and after much toil and tears, the establishment was finally submitted to M.O.D., which signified approval in early 1964. This meant that responsibility for London District Commcen was now that of 10th Signal Regiment, whose establishment contained a London District Signal Troop. Noticeable advantages came out of the inauguration of 10th Signal Regiment. Firstly, London District Signal Troop had access to the personnel resources of the Regiment in cases of sickness, etc. Secondly, the staff of the commcen was not reduced to a bare minimum each time a London District ceremonial function required communications. Thirdly, the additional personnel required for commcen and telephone exchange staffing for emergency operations could be provided at short notice from the operating Squadron of the Regiment.

The Future ?

Looking into the future, it is unlikely that H.Q. London District will ever again move from Horse Guards because of its traditional ties with the building and location, and it seems equally unlikely that the commcen will ever be divorced from the H.Q.

If you're a telecommunications man and match up to the qualifications below **cut yourself into a slice of Britain's future**



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NATCS National Air Traffic Control Service

Seeing how the other half live— but be warned what happened to me

By Captain W. P. B. Thomas

TRAVEL is part of the life of the Army, and recently I have had my share of luck in getting about the world. Since my visit by sea to Australia in December, there followed a course in U.K. at the School of Signals, then a quick 'change of air' for the Squadron at the Cameron Highlands in Malaya, the next trip was to be a 'trek' in the hills of Nepal.

Articles on treks to Nepal have been written before, but few people have written of Darjeeling and Kalimpong, in West Bengal, as they are in restricted territory since the Chinese moved into Tibet. It is possible to visit these places now for a limited period only, and so I write of my visit and impressions of this fascinating part of India.

The air hostesses in saris

The best part of travelling to India is the first class service and delightful air hostesses of Air India. There is something about a sari with its flowing lines and bare midrift which makes a conventional air hostess's uniform distinctly shoddy and tired looking . . . however, to continue. We arrived at the old Dum Dum Airport, Calcutta (a sprawl of shacks) at 9 a.m. and successfully negotiated the immigration and customs officials, who must surely be the most thorough and painstaking in the world. An air ticket to Bagdogra, which is the airport for Darjeeling, was easily obtained, and within one hour I was on my way again. Even on internal flights, Air India certainly pick some beauties for hostesses.

Meeting up with officialdom

At Bagdogra I again met up against officialdom, as it was necessary to obtain a special permit to visit Darjeeling. Only a few years ago it was closed to all outsiders, and now they keep a careful check on all foreigners (might be a Chinese spy, you never know). Formalities completed (20 minutes) and having rescued my case from a taxi tout, who wanted 60 rupees (about £3 10s.) to take me to Darjeeling, I took the airport bus 12 miles to Siliguri, which is the main railhead. There one can spend seven hours on the 'toy train' to Darjeeling, this runs on a 2ft. 6in. track and must have been the original model for 'Noddy,' or one can take a taxi.

Taxi was not quite the right word one would normally use, as the transport available was either a Willys Jeep or a Land Rover. Taking a taxi, my case was loaded up and the price agreed, the time of departure was, however, unknown.

The vehicle had three potential customers already, so I thought we might move quite soon. However, the combined efforts of three touts failed to raise any more, so after an hour I was told to get in and off we set.

Off to Darjeeling with the pots, pans and chickens

Needless to say, it was a Mark I short wheelbase Land Rover, and ex-W.D. at that. The battery was flat and so the touts were also employed to push-start it. I had grave doubts about the rest of its mechanical ability, but the driver seemed to have good faith in it. We moved slowly along the main street, the touts shouting 'Darjeeling.' At the end we came back and drove to the other end of town, stopping for 15 minutes in the middle. One more customer got on and off we went, but the driver was still not satisfied and we finished up back at the station again. Apparently he would not travel unless he had ten people on board at six rupees each, that was the economical load! A further delay of 15 minutes got me very annoyed and another driver took over and we all piled into his equally old Land Rover. By luck, 15 minutes later six Nepalese came along wanting to go to Darjeeling, they said they would all travel together or not at all. I was astonished when the driver said O.K. and in they piled. The Land Rover now contained four on the front seat and eight in the back, plus suitcases, bags of rice and the usual pots, pans and chickens no eastern traveller goes without. The radiator was topped up and with a lot of pushing we set off. After 100 yards the left hand door onto which I was firmly pressed flew open and I just saved myself from a very uncomfortable exit. Telling the driver forcibly in English and bad Nepali what I thought, he got the message and produced some D8 cable and tied the door shut but leaving a good four inch gap so we at least were safe and had a bit more room on the front seat.

The plains of West Bengal soon gave way to the sharp foothills of the mountain range. The road shared the same bridges as the railway line and ran practically parallel with the railway, crossing it at many places. The gradient was only slight and enabled the driver to use top gear the whole way at just about stalling speed, in fact during the whole 52 miles apart from stops for passengers, he changed down only 12 times, economy of petrol being vital.

On the way we passed several trains coming down all painted bright blue and pulling four coaches. Each coach carried a brake man who on the way down permanently stood on the brake pedal and peered over the top. The engine had two men sitting above the front bogies who no doubt applied more brakes. The engine used most of its steam whistling every time it crossed the road. Dr. Beeching could certainly have been well employed here.

'A fabulous English breakfast is provided'

The road journey took about 3½ hours, as we had one stop for water at Kurseong and numerous petrol blockages. The last part was completed in the dark and it was quite cold as we were now at about 7,000 feet. The last mile into Darjeeling is downhill so the driver took advantage of this and switched off the engine and coasted all the way. The one headlight mounted on the roof illuminated the road sufficiently to stop us going over the edge.

The hotel I had been advised to go to was an old fashioned place previously run by a notorious English woman. The present proprietor, an Indian, was out to make money and promised me a 'fabulous English breakfast' and 'piping hot water' for some ridiculous price. I assured him I wasn't an American tourist and after 15 minutes had agreed a reasonable price. The 'piping hot water' took ten minutes to come out of the cold tap and of the 'fabulous English breakfast' the toast was commendable. The cook was in fact a very old Sherpa woman.

I decided to tour Darjeeling on foot and found that it rests on a long steep ridge along the top being the fashionable Mall with views of the Himalayas. On one side is built the bazaar and the other a poorer residential area mainly for Sherpas and Tibetans. The town had been a most fashionable Victorian Indian Army hill station but sadly it has not had any money spent on maintenance since the British Raj left. A few Europeans still live there and many come up from the hot plains for a 'change of air' but to me it was a sad place. The only new building was the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, which has a museum of photographs and equipment used on Everest and other expeditions. Mountaineering courses are held and for climbers there is a wealth of knowledge and experience from the staff, who include Tenzing Norgay, the Sherpa who made the first Everest ascent with Hillary. He has a big house in Darjeeling with a large picture of Everest painted on the outside showing the camps and the route taken by the expedition.

I had been given the address of an old pensioner of Gurkha Signals and discovered the only way to find anyone was to go to the post office and find a postman who knew him. After a long walk and much asking, even by the postman, I found his house. We had a long chat and like all Gurkhas he was anxious I should see all there was to be seen. So we walked along the pine sloped hills passed St. Joseph's College and its prep school, run just like an English boarding school, North point and around to the Tibetan Refugee Centre.

The Tibetans

Many Tibetans fled Tibet when the Chinese invaded and now they live in the hills of Nepal and India in small communities rather like a Jewish kibutz. In communal work rooms, they spin and weave most beautiful and intricately patterned carpets. Luckily for them there is a big demand for these and they get good prices, but it is a slow process. The women sit on the floor weaving and wearing a long grey pinafore dress and a multi-coloured apron, amulets and lucky charms hang around their necks and the hair is plated and tied around over the top of their round pink-cheeked smiling faces. While they work they sing the old songs of Tibet. By their undying belief that they will one day return to Tibet and their keen communal spirit they seem to have found a place for themselves in the outside world.

Population—a strange mixture

The population of Darjeeling is a strange mixture of Nepalese, Tibetan, Anglo-India and Bengali. The Nepalese are Gurkhas who have settled in Darjeeling having being pensioned from the British Army, as at one time this was the Eastern Recruiting Centre. The language of the area is Nepali but the schools, of which there are many, use English.

Next day I was determined to visit Kalimpong and see a Gurkha officer, **Captain (Q.G.O.) Dambersing Chhetri,** who I knew well as he had only recently retired. Another permit had to be obtained as Kalimpong is very close indeed to the border with China and is a restricted area.

Transport was another ancient Land Rover, but this time they ran to a proper timetable and the load was only ten. I had a front seat but was somewhat alarmed to see the driver say a prayer before setting off. Thick cloud spoilt the view but for two hours we drove down the side of a mountain through pine forests and tea gardens. The road was very steep and twisty, the vehicle had no brakes but the driver did use his gears. The only way he could completely stop the vehicle was to run it into the side! At last we came to the Teesta valley and could see the ravages of last year's terrible landslides. Whole sides of the steep valley had fallen into the river under the pressure of the exceptional monsoon rains. It was like the Aberfan disaster only repeatedly all along the valley. The huge solid bridge had just disappeared and now the Indian Army Engineers had built a new suspension bridge and remade the road. Being one of the nearest points to China and a good defensive position the area is full of troops. My permit was slowly and deliberately checked and recorded and at the bridge armed sentries guarded both ends.

The route was now uphill and was so steep that the road sometimes went around and up over itself like a corkscrew. At last after an hour we came to Kalimpong nestling on a saddle with wonderful views over Bengal on one side and Bhutan, China and Sikkim on the other.

I quickly found another vehicle — a jeep to take me to **Captain Dambersing's** house, this was about two miles away on a track then across paddy fields. He was in and we had a long chat about old times and caught up on present news. He arranged that I should be shown around the sights, which mainly consisted of a boarding school with even one or two English children and is set high on the hill astride the ridge. On returning to the bazaar I was charged far too much for the vehicle but knocked the price down to a reasonable amount after a long argument. Moral — always fix a price before starting.

Kalimpong is a pretty poor and filthy town but full of interesting characters from Bhutan, Sikkim, India and Nepal. At 3 p.m. I returned home but this time the only seat available was on a large sack of rice shared, with a local, and tied precariously on the lowered tail board.

Next day I had to leave Darjeeling as my permit had run out. Just before I left an American hippie complete with long hair, red beard and white caftan arrived and booked in. He had been alloted my room and when I went to do my final packing I found him already fast asleep in the spare bed, sleeping off his last 'trip.' One meets odd people these days.

My journey down to the plains was again by ancient Land Rover and at the same price although this time it must have been 100 per cent profit as the engine was switched off all the way and we just coasted. Brakes?

The worst journey in the world

I was now to make one of the worst journeys in the world — a trip by 3rd class night train on Indian railways. Unfortunately, there was no alternative and no doubt the experience has made me realise how lucky one is to have been born in a civilised country; British Rail really is first class in comparison. In a compartment designed for 16 there lay, sat, squatted, stood some 40 men, women and children and a mass of sacks, cases, pots and pans. The heat, humidity, stench, of a crying, shouting, snoring, howling, spitting crowd of Indians who trampled, pushed and fought their way in and out of the darkened compartment at every station was one aspect. The other was the stations themselves; endless platforms covered in bodies swathed from head to foot in filthy cotton rags, breeding, living and dying; pitiless mis-shapen forms begging, diseased, starving children, coolies, charwallahs, betel-nut sellers, club swinging, scruffily dressed police, shouting, hawking, spitting, always spitting.

This experience lasted from 7 p.m. in the evening through to 9 a.m. in the morning with a one-and-a-half hour wait on Katihar station — it will not be forgotten. At Jogbani, the railhead for East Nepal, I was met by a British Army Land Rover and after crossing the frontier into Nepal was soon at the Dharan Cantonment of the British Gurkha L. of C. I was back in civilisation at last.

Of trekking in the hills of East and West Nepal, the homeland of the Gurkhas; of the hippy and tourist paradise of Katmandu and of the worst City in the world — Calcutta, are other stories and have been described in THE WIRE by others before me. So I will end by saying that if you want to see how the other half live and travel, come to India but you have been warned.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in June	...	**60**
Number of clothing parcels sent	...	**56**
Amount spent in grants and loans	...	**£1,205 6 11**

One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, 1940 to 1946. Due to a long and progressive illness, he has been unable to work for 15 years, and he and his wife have struggled to bring up their four children on state benefits. The Association has made a grant of £40 to enable the man and his wife to have their first holiday for many years. An extract from his letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

"I HAVE good reason in the past to thank the Corps for their help, but this latest example of their kindness is something I never dreamed of. I let the first excitement die down a little before I thought of what I would write to thank them. I've thought of it all day, and now it's late at night, and what can I say, except a heartfelt thanks? I have always been proud of the Signals, and I am sure nobody could have looked after us better.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

UPGRADING COURSES AT CATTERICK

Serial	*Course*	*Class*	*Assembles*	*Disperses*
1/59	Technician Radio	II-I	17 Nov. '70	22 July '71
1/41	Technician TE	II-I	17 Nov. '70	22 July '71
2/55	Technician Radio	III-II	17 Nov. '70	20 May '71
2/48	Technician TE	III-II	24 Nov. '70	22 Apr. '71
1/57	Telegraph Op	II-I	24 Nov. '70	12 Mar. '71
1/80	Radio Op	II-I	17 Nov. '70	12 Feb. '71
1/49	Comcen Op	II-I	24 Nov. '70	26 Feb. '71
1/52	Lineman	II-I	3 Nov. '70	18 Mar. '71
1/28	Radio Relayman	II-I	17 Nov. '70	14 Jan. '71
2/33	Comcen Op III-Cipher Op II		24 Nov. '70	19 Feb. '71

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) Tie

The Squadron now has its own approved tie, which has a navy-blue background, the motives being an upright Khunja and the Arabic numerals 222 separated by a thin diagonal white stripe.

The cost of the tie is 14/-. If any past member of the Squadron would like a tie, could they please remit the cost of the tie, plus 1s. 6d. postage, to Officer-in-Charge, P.R.I., 222 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 64.

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M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

This equipment is designed specifically for tactical roles, in combat and signals vehicles, and for transportable command stations for forward and rear units.

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M E L The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.

M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant R. G. Aitken ... ... To 225 Squadron
Major M. C. Barrett ... ... ,, R.H.Q.
Captain H. M. A. Bonaker ... ... ,, 22nd Regiment as Major
Captain P. L. Bye ... ... ,, 1st Cdn. Signal Regt. (exchange)
Major G. G. Campbell ... ... ,, 40th Regiment (V)
Captain (Tfc.) M. J. Caplan ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Major E. F. Carrel ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Captain M. K. Carson ... ... ,, 11th Regiment
Major W. G. A. Cathcart ... ... ,, H.Q., STRATCO
Captain F. Cooper ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Captain J. D. Cox ... ... ,, 39 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Lieutenant C. J. Dakin ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Major M. C. Deverill ... ... ,, PR Services FARELF
Captain (Tfc.) D. Duncan ... ... ,, 242 Squadron
Captain A. P. Fielding ... ... ,, 19th Regiment as Major
Second-Lieutenant A. R. Gale ... ,, 22nd Regiment
Captain R. P. Gravestock ... ... ,, School of Infantry (Signal Wing)
Major P. D. E. Gregory ... ... ,, J.O.C.P.T.
Major-General M. S. Hancock, M.B.E. ,, M.O.D. (VQMG)
Lieutenant J. E. Ient ... ... ,, 24th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain (T.O.T.) R. E. Jenkins ... ,, 13th Regiment
Major H. A. Johnstone, M.B.E. ... ,, SHAPE (Ex. Ops. Div.) as Lt.-Col.
Lieutenant P. B. R. Kent ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Lieutenant I. R. Knock ... ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. and Signal Regt. (att. Blues and Royals)
Captain R. A. Knox-Johnston ... ,, 11th Regiment HS (retires)
Captain (Tfc.) W. A. Littlejohn ... ,, Project HAIG, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Lieutenant P. H. MacCulloch ... ,, 260 Squadron
Captain (Q.M.) J. McGlynn ... ,, 244 Squadron
Lieutenant D. S. McLuckie ... ... ,, 7th Regiment (att. 3 R.T.R.)
Major T.O.T.) A. R. Martin ... ,, 261 Squadron
Lieutenant J. W. Miller ... ... ,, 661 Troop as O.C. (Capt.)
Lieutenant T. P. Mountford ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Major D. F. Oakley ... ... ,, TROI E & D MOT as Lt.-Col.
Major G. H. Peirson ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
Major S. W. Read ... ... ,, 262 Squadron (O.C.)
Lieutenant D. D. Richardson ... ... ,, 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. (att. Q.O.H.)
Lieutenant J. H. Roberts ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) F. A. Smith ... ... ,, 8th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain P. Stanley ... ... ,, 604 Troop (O.C.)
Captain T. B. Swan ... ... ,, 13th Regiment (as Major)
Lieutenant V. F. M. Thom, M.B.E. ... ,, 229 Squadron (1st Com.)
Captain W. P. B. Thomas ... ... ,, 16th Regiment (as Major)
Lieutenant A. A. Vaigncourt-Strallen ,, 24th Regiment
Lieutenant G. H. Waters ... ... ,, 21st Regiment (1st Com.)
Lieutenant P. M. A. Whittaker ... ,, 4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. (att. Q.R.I.H.)
Captain (T.O.T.) G. D. Willis ... ,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant J. C. Young ... ... ,, 11th Regiment

Warrant Officers and Sergeants

W.O.I G. W. Mercer ... ... To 33rd Regiment (V)
W.O.I B. Fisher ... ... ,, 31st Regiment (V)
W.O.I (F. of S.) R. J. Hoe ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II J. Horne ... ... ,, 4th Division Signal Regiment
W.O.II B. Cook ... ... ,, 5 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
W.O.II A. J. E. Irons ... ... ,, 19th Regiment
W.O.II J. Green ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
W.O.II (F. of S.) T. R. Bateman ... ,, 18th Regiment
W.O.II J. Maher ... ... ,, 33rd Regiment (V)
W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Geldard ... ,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II C. Meredith ... ... ,, 223 Squadron
W.O.II (F. of S.) D. E. G. Lanyon ... ,, 22nd Regiment
W.O.II D. Connell ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
W.O.II D. W. L. Crisp ... ... ,, 30th Regiment
W.O.II T. D. Hammill ... ... ,, 38th Regiment (V)
W.O.II G. A. Christie ... ... ,, School of Infantry
W.O.II R. C. Brodie ... ... ,, H.Q., London District
W.O.II J. H. Izzo ... ... ,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant W. J. Kirk ... ... ,, 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Staff Sergeant M. J. Sheridan ... ... ,, 225 Squadron
Staff Sergeant R. Hills ... ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant R. Paterson ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant D. M. Ferguson ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) F. W. Kendall ,, 222 Squadron
Staff Sergeant F. A. Mabbott ... ... ,, 35th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant T. S. Jephcote ... ... ,, 225 Squadron
Staff Sergeant B. D. Ireland ... ... ,, 18th Regiment
Staff Sergeant S. J. Chudleigh ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. F. Gayther ... ... ,, 226 Squadron
Staff Sergeant T. Balch ... ... ,, 21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. D. Bermingham ... ,, 19 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. Simpson ... ,, 48 Gurkha Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) E. C. Harriss ,, 227 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. C. Kelly ... ,, 37th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. A. Callow ... ,, 234 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. K. Owen ... ,, School of Signals
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) P. J. Peplow ... ,, School of Infantry
Staff Sergeant A. Smith ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. Pearce ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant E. W. Unwin ... ,, H.Q., Scotland
Sergeant K. Morrell ... ... ,, 5 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Sergeant J. H. Parkes ... ... ,, 639 Troop
Sergeant J. B. Bennett ... ... ,, 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. F. Huet ... ... ,, 13th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. M. Willoughby ... ,, 224 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. Bulley ... ... ,, 9th Regiment
Sergeant F. W. Baker ... ... ,, ACIO Darlington
Sergeant J. S. Rusling ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
Sergeant N. Parvin ... ... ,, Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate
Sergeant R. C. Miller ... ... ,, 262 Squadron
Sergeant O. McGinness ... ... ,, School of Signals
Sergeant A. Dodd ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant K. E. R. Foskett ... ... ,, 253 Squadron
Sergeant D. Edmondson ... ... ,, 16th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Saunders ... ... ,, 11th Regiment (2 Squadron)
Sergeant K. V. Austin ... ... ,, 4th Division Signal Regiment
Sergeant R. H. Percival ... ... ,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant B. Wray ... ... ,, 24th Regiment
Sergeant V. Towler ... ... ,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant W. T. Goss ... ... ,, 33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. E. Meredith ... ... ,, 260 Squadron
Sergeant E. N. B. Ferguson ... ... ,, 14th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. Vockings ... ... ,, H.Q. NORTHAG

Promotions

Regimental Duty Roll

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Peake, R. A.	1760	3530	
	A/W.O.I	Mann, E. J.	1770	3340	
	A/W.O.I	Hammond, P. M. V.	1780	3110	
	A/W.O.I	Stephens, C. E.	1800	3590	
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Toole, F. T.	5320	5190	
	S/Sgt.	Abbott, A. E.	5330	5400	
	A/W.O.II	Palman, M. E. J.	5340	880	
	S/Sgt.	Meredith, C.	5350	5390	
	S/Sgt.	Danells, R. L.	5370	5810	
	A/W.O.II	Walton, D. C.	5390	2480	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Mellett, J. E. T.	6510	70	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Higgins J. M.	6520	140	(C Op.)
	Sgt.	Shaw, C. R.	6540	620	(Lmn.)
	Sgt.	Lowe, M. J.	6570	5110	(Tech.)
	A/S Sgt.	Geere, D. J.	6580	10	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Ward, F.	6600	230	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Green, B.	6650	270	(ED)

Foreman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I	W.O.II	Stoddart, T. M.	1550	1950	
	W.O.II	Wilkins, J. A.	1590	2250	
	W.O.II	McKay, R. A.	1600	2030	
	W.O.II	Bateman, T. R.	1610	2140	
	W.O.II	Pankhurst, M. J. S.	1620	2280	
	W.O.II	Cordey, J. H.	1630	1870	
	W.O.II	Coxon, J. A.	1640	1860	

Supervisor (Radio) Roll

To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Jephcote, T. S.	150	40	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Bannier, P. J.	160	200	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Cheyne, D. E.	170	270	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Parkinson, H.	180	280	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Hague, J. R.	190	360	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Chudleigh, S. J.	200	420	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Casey, S. T.	210	480	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Poole, D. J. T.	220	510	(S Op.)
	Sgt.	Stanton, B.	230	590	(S Op.)

Yeoman of Signals Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	French, K.	700	1040

Chief Clerks Roll

To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Lincoln, B. S.	570	1010
	A/W.O.I	Goodyer, D. F.	580	1020
To W.O.II	A/W.O.II	Mays, J. G.	1280	1490
	A/W.O.II	Brown, R. E. G.	1290	750
To S Sgt.	A/S Sgt.	Unwin, E. W.	1820	240
	A/S Sgt.	Morris, N. H.	1830	250
	Sgt.	Perry, D. G.	1840	230

Technical Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Smith, I. R.	9170	13611	
	Cpl.	Walder, P. M.	9294	14690	
	Cpl.	Davies, R. P.	9318	15575	
	Cpl.	Murphy, J.	9360	14725	
	Cpl.	McKinlay, R. T.	9440	14624	
	Cpl.	Scott, W. E.	9457	15554	
	Cpl.	Mason, D.	9459	14638	
	Cpl.	Agius, R. C.	9478	14192	
	Cpl.	Hayes, R. G.	9482	13656	
	Cpl.	Terry, J.	9486	16036	
	Cpl.	Machintosh, K.	9488	15960	
	Cpl.	Stevens, P. J.	9500	13163	
	Cpl.	Keep, R. L.	9502	13620	
	Cpl.	Cripps, R. E. W.	9512	14523	
	Cpl.	Burke, M. J.	9513	15374	
	Cpl.	Warne, M.	9514	16731	
	Cpl.	Wood, C. M.	9515	15555	
	Cpl.	Stocks, M. C.	9525	15252	
	Cpl.	Evans, W. H.	9545	14595	

Special Operator Roll

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Roberts, B. D.	720	510
	Cpl.	Jones, W. R.	730	1060
	Cpl.	Kaye, P.	750	300
	Cpl.	Allum, S.	760	380
	A/Sgt.	Bowles, W. E. T.	770	1310
	Cpl.	Mitchell, A. A.	780	1050

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Watson, D. D.	1200		1210
	Cpl.	McLaren, R. W.	1240		2060
	Cpl.	Richardson, A. E.	1250		2130

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Ryan, J. J.	540	260
	Cpl.	Murphy, J. J.	650	304

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Hall, K. W.	890	960
	Cpl.	Boyle, A. M.	910	250
	Cpl.	Theis, T.	930	490

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Hewing, R. C.	1460	260
	Cpl.	Gay, A. J.	1500	1580

ELECTRICIAN DRIVER ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Chambers, J. G.	450	250
	Cpl.	Williams, R.	470	490

LINEMAN ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Lindsay, J.	1120	740
	A/Sgt.	Farr, G. H.	1130	1100
	A/Sgt.	Wood, D. G.	1150	800
	Cpl.	Collins, R. M. D.	1160	1030

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.I	830	1010			
W.O.II	1070	2500	2600	3850	
S Sgt.	770	3600			

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	1240	

CHIEF CLERKS ROLL

W.O.I	560	
W.O.II	770	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.	6080	6100	6255	6305	6700	7000
	9508					

CLERK TECHNICAL ROLL

Sgt.	110

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.	80

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.	1000

DRIVER ROYAL SIGNALS

Sgt.	830

RADIO RELAYMAN ROLL

Sgt.	20	50

Exercise Edenbridge — Cyprus May 1970

By Major M. R. C. Weiner

3 H.Q. and Signal Regiment

RETURNING from Christmas leave, I was confronted by the C.O., who said, "I've an exercise I want you to organise, I am afraid it's in Cyprus." "Very well, sir," I said, choking back the tears. So it began. A recce of the training areas took place in February, on which I was accompanied by our Q.M.(A), **Captain Eric Higgins.** We spent the next three months in preparation, briefings, securing kit and planning the exercise.

The aim of the exercise was to move to Cyprus and carry out Infantry training as a Company-sized group. To this end, a party of 137 all ranks, including six officers, left Lyneham during the last three days of May. The comments about Hercules travelling are not repeatable; the only consolation appears to be that by moving through Devizes and Lyneham, every soldier was guaranteed two breakfasts.

Sunny Cyprus—rain and snow

Having promised nothing but sunshine in all my briefings, I lost considerable face during the last week, when we had rain every day, and it was even reported that snow fell on Mount Olympus. We were undaunted and the training continued as planned, the first two weeks being on fitness and weapon training. As the intention was to do infantry section platoon training, the first requirement was to train the platoon commanders. Accordingly, **Lieutenants Martin Clark** and **Bob Palmer** were detailed to study training films—this they duly did—the 'Green Beret' at the SKC Cinema.

AT WORK IN CYPRUS

Left to right: Signalman Finch, Sergeant Gorton, Signalman Baker, Signalman Ingleby, Sergeant Boulton-Lear, Lance-Corporal Brown on a patrol exercise

AT EASE IN CYPRUS

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Burnett, Corporal Johnson, Signalman Young, Signalman Barrett, relax in the sun

3rd Division save the Army's face

Because the NEARELF Rifle Meeting was taking place during Week 2, we were forced to carry out all our range classification during Week 1. This culminated in an inter-platoon competition, which was finally decided by the falling-plate result, and won by H.Q. Platoon.

We were allowed to enter teams in the NEARELF falling-plate competition, not expecting to progress beyond round one. Imagine our disbelief when our Corporals and below team reached round two, then beat the Ordnance Depot to meet the Scots Guards in the semi-final. This proved the hardest match, but was narrowly won. Our opponents in the final were R.A.F. Akrotiri, and so, for the Army's sake, we had to win—and did. The winning team, of **Corporal Dunbar, Lance-Corporal Freeman,** of the R.P.C., **Lance-Corporal Fox,** R.C.T., and **Craftsman Fegasse,** R.E.M.E., really deserved their tankards, were awarded the freedom of Dhekelia!

All at sea

The third, and last complete week of training, was spent away from Dhekelia. Monday morning saw two craft docked at Dhekelia Jetty, and by 09.00 hours, 70 men and most of the transport was aboard. The destination was Evdiumeu Jetty, which was reached by 16.00, not without incidents. The craft passed very close to the R.A.F. bombing range, and many of the passengers felt this was taking training a bit far—after all, the bombing range was active at the time!

Undaunted, everyone disembarked safely, and a base camp was quickly erected, literally a stone's throw from the sea.

"Can you eat him"

Besides using this week to confirm the training carried out earlier at section level, several other aspects of training were practised. Whilst one platoon maintained the base camp, carried out swimming tests and and various sports, the remaining two platoons took part in escape and evasion training. One of these platoons stayed out for 24 hours and was completely self-contained. The remaining platoon's task was to seek out, attack and destroy the other platoon. As it was out intention to live off compo and not subsidise it in any way, food became very much a talking point. Most of the comments are unprintable, but one incident is worthy of mention.

During the first day our A.P.T.C. Instructor, **S.S.I. Tiltman,** was encouraging the soldiers to jump off the cliff face on to the sand below. Unfortunately, the last to jump, **Lieutenant Palmer,** had the ground crumble beneath him, he fell to the sand below and lay motionless. One would have expected medical assistance to have been uppermost in people's minds, but no—"put a rope round his neck and pull him up," said one. "Can we eat him if he's dead," said another.

Time to go home

All good things come to an end. We returned to Dhekelia on 22nd May and had the Whitsun weekend to recreate and pack up. During this phase our Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Bohannan** paid us a visit. Besides seeing what was going on, he obviously managed to do some shopping. He purchased some very large local 'pots, flowers for the use of.' Many heads were to roll if they failed to reach U.K. in one piece, and accordingly, **W.O.II Clarke** was appointed 'Officer-in-charge pots, C.O.' He took his duties so seriously that he seated two of them next to him in the aircraft home, despite warnings that they shatter at 10,000 feet.

So the exercise ended. Walking around Carter Barracks at Bulford, it was very easy to pick out those who had recently been overseas. This type of exercise comes round all too infrequently, and is of tremendous value. It is only to be hoped that 3rd Division's name will come out of the hat again very soon.

Besides the military training, there was a considerable amount of adventure training, in the form of sub-aqua, gliding, free-fall parachuting, mountaineering, sailing, riding, and even fishing.

Exercise 'Bersatu Padu'—1970

By Major Hamish MacKinley, 249 Squadron

'BERSATU PADU,' which means, for those not familiar with Bahasa Malaysia 'perfect unity,' was a five-nation exercise (Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore) and took place in Western Malaysia this month. Although from the Army's point of view it was primarily an exercise for 19th Infantry Brigade, 249 Signal Squadron was very much committed and had been involved in the planning from its earliest stages.

Unfortunately, as **Captain David Burton** left us half-way through the exercise, and **Captain Peter Burke** is to take over as 18th Signal Regiment Operations Officer, I find myself landed with the task of writing THE WIRE notes. I have solved the problem in my normal manner by getting the Troops to report individually on their experiences. Here are their efforts (abridged, of course).

'A' Troop—Lieutenant John Maclean

'Alpha' Troop were most definitely responsible for the success of Exercise 'Bersatu Padu'! We supplied communications for the co-ordinating of air-strikes, manoeuvring of the fleet, positioning of Commandos during the beach assault, and made possible the re-supply of the forward troops. We accomplished these tasks, passing traffic, mostly in English, partly in Gurkhali and in a sprinkling of old-fashioned Anglo-Saxon, from radio control, by means of various nets, using C42, C11, C11(SSB), D11. The P.R. men showed great interest in our four neutral rebroadcast stations which were situated on inaccessible jungle hill-tops and resupplied daily by R.A.F. Whirlwinds.

Lance-Corporal Bill Allen and **Signalman George Blackwood** were settling down to a scrambled egg breakfast on top of Bukit Jintek (RRB 88Echo) when they found themselves the target of a Company assault from 2 L.I. Finally convincing their disappointed captors of their neutrality, they reheated their breakfast, sat down to their table, carved out of the jungle, to then find themselves recaptured by a patrol of 3 Commando, who highjacked a resupply helicopter which, amongst other things, was bringing fresh eggs to the luckless 88Echo!

The Brigade rear links were also manned by the Troop. They managed to see off the enemy who attacked their headquarters periodically. **Lance-Corporal Tommy Gore** and his crew tell me they dug in the whole of H.Q. 4 Malaysian Infantry Brigade so successfully in a particularly vile and swampy clearing that they were all flooded out. **Signalman Steve Belcher,** with his new kingsize beard, was mistaken for a naval advisor through his muttering "Let's take the . . . . starboard tack out of here" which caused one or two suspicious glances in his direction.

I am being assisted in this short account by 'Paddy Bersatu,' which, in spite of its pedigree name, is a puppy of indeterminate parentage. **Staff Sergeant Clive King** and **Sergeant Gus Boag** picked it off the road when we were driving up on convoy about six weeks ago. As the memory of 'Bersatu Padu' fades, may 'Paddy' grow from strength to strength with 'Alpha' Troop.

'B' Troop—Captain Bob Wright

The D11 stations have had great success working to Kuala Lumpur from the Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' area, averaging better than 22 hours' circut time each day, despite electrical storms at the Dungun end of the link. **Signalman James Dear** has his own special souvenir of the exercise—a piece of burnt-out R4 from his transmitter antenna which was struck by lightning. Meanwhile, back at the 'blunt end,' in Kuala Lumpur, **Sergeant Jim Ballard** and his crew of Gurkha and British soldiers were forced to 'rough it' in the Majestic Hotel.

A D13 station was loaned to 19 Brigade, with a crew made up from the Troop and 14th Signal Regiment, to set up as the national rear link. The crew managed to avoid being captured by 42 Commando (enemy), but it has been reported that the

TIME FOR A DECISION

Major Hamish Mackinlay and Captain Peter Burke discuss a problem

HOME, SWEET HOME
Corporal Calvert surveys his palm-beach abode—a little different to the vimy blocks in Catterick

detachment commander, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Frank Gadman,** from 14th Signal Regiment, unfortunately fell into a very deep refuse pit whilst searching for his fork . . . . some say not entirely accidentally!

'O' Troop—Captain Les Waumsley

'Perfect Unity' was the cry from Commcen Troop of 249 Signal Squadron, as our own operators lined up alongside those from 244 Squadron, waiting for the starter to drop his flag on Exercise 'Granada' (the land battle part of Exercise 'Bersatu Padu'). To help fill in our ranks, we were bolstered with operators from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Gurkhas from 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment and from 38 Group, R.A.F.—has there ever been a more cosmopolitan commcen? After some slight bumping round the first bend, when varying bits of procedure had to be sorted out, the runners settled down to help each other round the course.

The runners were carefully ridden by our three expert D.S.M.s—**W.O.II (Y. of S.) Tom Martin** (249), **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Bi'l Donnelly** (249) and **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Mac McHugh** (17th Gurkha Signal Regiment) who, between them, ensured that most of the field finished the course. There were, however, a few fallers, most notable of whom was **Corporal Robertson** (249) who found Beechers Brook (in reality the hole into which 4th Malaysian Infantry Brigade went to ground) too much for him, fell into it and broke his ankle. Fortunately, we did not have to put him down and we're hoping he will be fit for our November Handicap.

Integration can never be all-embracing and therefore 'permission to grow' had to be refused to all members outside the naval contingent. Similarly, the Gurkha rum ration was reserved for those to whom it was originally intended. This was just as well, or we may have lost more messages than the one to which we had to own up to. In this respect, we feel we are indebted to 'Tracer Jim' (**Staff Sergeant Mellett**) (249), who invariably managed to slide the blame on to someone else.

Altogether a most enjoyable exercise, with friendships renewed and new friends made.

'R' Troop—Lieutenant Graham Gordon, Gurkha Signals

Having gone through pre-pre-exercise exercises, 249 Squadron arrived in location—a palm grove by the sea! 'Romeo' Troop, much to everyone's amazement, arrived almost intact, only two vehicles and one trailer having been damaged en route! **Staff Sergeant John Scrutton,** as packet leader slowed down to allow a flock of goats to cross the road and found his own trailer attempting to join him in the front seat, with the aid of **Signalman Rajkumar Rai,** who had been playing follow my leader rather too enthusiastically. A rather terse 'Gari no stop' explained the reason for the demise of **Staff Sergeant Scruttons'** record of 'umpteen' years' accident-free driving, but it is to be hoped that he will not continue to learn Gurkhali in such an expensive manner.

The 'B' Troop Gurkhas disappeared off to Kuala Lumpur with their D11 to establish a link to Dungun. It would appear that other nations' forces in KL were being put in hotels, but no such accommodation was arranged for the poverty-stricken British. Subsequent signals sorted everything out, and probably for the first time in their lives, **Corporal Minbahadur Gurung** and his detachment found themselves on an exercise where re-supply was arranged by pressing the room service button . . . .

'A' Troop Gurkhas scattered in all directions and were to be found either peering anxiously out to sea, wondering just exactly where the other end of the link had sailed off to this time, or else six feet underground in the jungle, from where, oddly enough, the communications were perfect. Under the magic of flashing kukris, wielded by experienced hands, empty holes in the ground soon became veritable rest rooms. Easy chairs and tables, constructed with the aid of the jungle's natural materials, plus a great deal of experience and ingenuity made off-shift relaxation far more pleasant than it might otherwise have been. As happened in more than one case where British and Gurkhas worked and ate together on detachments, the British element are still, I think, wondering how it is that a compo pack, consisting mostly of rice, can put the standard BT 10-man pack to shame. It was far from unusual to see the Gurkha element cooking—or perhaps I should say currying—the BT rations supplementing them with their own rice, and feeding the white faces, with the inevitable 'gurkha rum' to make it more of a party. Such close co-operation certainly made the problem of working together far easier for all concerned.

However, we now await our return to Singapore, where we start preparing for yet another round of admin. inspections, U.E.I.s, etc. Many of the Troop will be leaving to go back to their homes in the hills of Nepal, either on long leave or redundancy. As their O.C., I would like to convey to them all, through this means, my gratitude for the solid efforts and constant cheerfulness which they have shown throughout their period of service with the Troop.

As is the case with most large exercises, Signals not only have to worry about communications, but also the many visitors who turned up each day. In fact, approximately 40 visitors, many of them V.I.P.s came each day and included such notable Corps personalities as B.G.S. FARELF, **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray;** C.S.O., FARELF, **Brigadier D. E. Warren;** C.S.O. STRATCO, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.;** Commander 5 Signal Group, **Co'onel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.;** C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** and many other lesser bodies.

We were also honoured by a most thorough visit by the Army Commander, **Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Hunt** and his new C. of S., **Major-General Thomas.**

The exercise is now over and the clearing-up has begun. Probably no one else will say it, but I think we can be proud of our efforts, and have earned a quiet period in Singapore (which I know we will not get)!

A Further Story from North of The Border

A WRAC officer takes a look at Scottish Volunteers at Annual Camp

"My principal reaction is astonishment, mingled with envy, admiration and compassion"

By Major E. L. Ross, W.R.A.C.

Major Ross, of 10th Signal Regiment, acted as Senior W.R.A.C. Officer, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment for the period of their annual camp.

ANXIETY about what would be expected of me, and apprehension about living conditions, were my main causes for concern during my journey north to 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment's camp in Scotland.

Now that the camp is over, my principal reaction is astonishment, mingled with envy, admiration and compassion (if I may use the latter without sounding patronising).

Cause for astonishment . . .

My first cause of astonishment—and this was where the envy came in—was the Regiment's up-to-date equipment—D13s and Siemens printers on duplex working, all M.O.D. property, maintained by Royal Signals (V) technicians. This must represent a considerable capital outlay—the guardians of government defence expenditure are not usually so generous. To invest in the T. & A.V.R. is a reassuring sign of confidence in its ability, and of recognition of its potential value.

. . . and admiration

I admired the general spirit of dedication, particularly when I heard that for a large proportion of the Regiment, attendance at camp represented annual leave. One young Royal Signals officer had not had a summer holiday with his wife during the six years of his volunteer service. One officer, with 22 years' service, had completed 21 camps.

The competent, conscientious and diligent way in which the officers, operators and technicians carried out their duties during the exercise, I accepted as normal; this is what this country expects of its Forces in time of stress.

. . . and compassion

My compassion was aroused by the difficulties and hardships in the daily life of the volunteers, and even more by the overnight conditions, the extraordinary discomfort of the narrow beds, shaped like dug-out canoes, listing permanently to port or starboard, damp with the ageless chill of wintry, unheated huts.

The very strict administrative discipline during the exercise filled me with amazement; the nightly booking-in of troops; the confinement to camp, even during off-duty hours; the bans on civilian clothes and private cars. At first it seemed to me that this firmness was harmful; I know that it was irksome. However, one should consider what conditions will face the volunteers during the next war. They will have to abandon their families in cities subject to enemy obliteration attacks, and to remain at their posts without news from home, or perhaps with news of a very grim nature. This will probably be a far greater trial than anything they themselves may be experiencing, even though their own circumstances will probably be arduous and dangerous. Therefore, the discipline to which the volunteers are subjected may be serving its purpose in testing their submission to military obedience.

Open to comment—but . . .

The administrative and executive conduct of the daily programme at times was open to comment, but this was due to inexperience. I did so much admire the spirit in which any muddles were accepted, particularly the noble effort of the all-male North Irish Horse to comply with the order to produce a W.R.A.C. duty N.C.O.!

It was surprising to find not only mothers, but even grandmothers amongst the W.R.A.C. volunteers, and even more surprising, and very complimentary to W.R.A.C. discipline, to discover that the W.R.A.C. S.S.M., in eight years' service, had never had to put a volunteer on a charge.

Amusement and gaiety in the routine

There were countless daily events which brought amusement and gaiety into the routine. In particular, the infiltration attempts by hostile troops, although serious in their import and in their execution, injected excitement and enjoyment into the exercise programme. Then there was the officer who discovered a shower in the kitchen area, which was being used for vegetable storage. He cleared it and was standing under the water, busily spreading soap over his rather stout figure, when four crates of cabbages collapsed on him! And on the morning of departure, the Pipe Band played Reveille at 4 a.m., reinforced by the big drum and by a brick pounded against the sides of the Nissen huts. When this treatment was meted out to the W.R.A.C., they came out of their huts in force, led by the duty N.C.O., wearing her red sash over her nightie, and retaliated by emptying the firebuckets over the disturbers of their peace!

The W.R.A.C. — determined to show no sign of emotion

There were other occasions which aroused deep-felt emotions. One of these was the entry into Cultybraggan camp of 52 (Lowland) Squadron after their crossing of the Larig Ghru, and even more so, the return of the W.R.A.C. after their adventure training and homeward trek over the mountains. They marched in behind the Pipe Band to the sound of the Corps Pipe March. Their faces were very set and serious, and I think this was due not only to their exhaustion, but also to the fact that this return of triumphant achievement moved them almost to tears, and they were determined to show no signs of emotion: this was a feeling shared by many of the spectators.

The departure of the North Irish Horse for their night in the hills also inspired admiration. They were led by their Corporal Cook, in cook's clothing, playing an Irish march on a set of Scottish pipes. The effect was somewhat spoilt by an irreverent voice in the background, which said: "He's nae batter at piping than he is at cooking."

The dividing curtain is drawn back

On the last morning of camp, a volunteer N.C.O. asked me to tell him honestly what is the Regular Army's opinion of the T. & A.V.R. I replied that the Regular Army knows nothing about the T. & A.V.R. For people like myself, on a short attachment, the dividing curtain is drawn back for two short weeks, and I have now tried to set down my impressions and opinions.

(In fact a number of T.A.V.R. units have worked alongside regular units in N.A.T.O. and Cyprus, where they have created an excellent impression.—Editor).

Live Oak, SHAPE, B.F.P.O. 26

W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. Brown writes about having what is called a 'Plum Job' with SHAPE.

ON arriving at SHAPE, the sight of such a large headquarters, with so many staff officers of varying nations can be overpowering, even to the best of us. However, after going through mountains of paperwork to enable you to perform your normal daily routine—e.g., passes for this and passess for that, rations cards, insurance cards, bus passes, shopping passes, you eventually find the little office you are assigned to, and, if you are lucky, you will find you are a member of the Live Oak Staff.

Live Oak is only one of the many 'divisions' (as they are called here) in SHAPE, but it is commonly known as the 'Plum Job.'

As far as Royal Signals are concerned, we are very pleased with and very happy at our work in Live Oak.

Although it is difficult to term it as a 'Faraway Places' job, it could perhaps be termed as a 'Strangeaway Place,' as the signals boys will tell you, to communicate with German, French and Americans can be strange at times, although one can gain a wealth of information and friendship amongst the three nations.

The Signals Family Tree

The Signals Family Tree at Live Oak at present is:

Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., M.C., Staff Communications Officer, Live Oak; **W.O.I (Y. of S.) P. Brown,** Warrant Officer-in-Charge Quadripartite Commcen and Custodian Officer, Live Oak; **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Sharpe,** in charge U.K. National Commcen, Live Oak; **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. McRae,** Foreman of Signals for Live Oak. Operators: **Sergeant McLeod, Corporal Beresford, Corporal Siggs, Corporal Brown, Corporal Wells, Corporal Hanrahan** and **Corporal Rooney.** Technician, **Sergeant Hume.**

In sport, a Signals chap is always to the fore

We are very proud that, true to Corps tradition, we all take an active part in the Live Oak activities, whether they be sports type or traditional type. Although Live Oak is a four-nation division, we still manage to provide a team to enter most of the SHAPE competitions, and a Royal Signals chap is always to the fore.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith (commonly known as 'Pronto' when bowling, throwing darts or captaining the cricket team) is a keen golfer and came second in the SHAPE Tournament, 1969, and, in between, took part in the squash competition.

THE LIVE OAK, SHAPE, CRICKET TEAM WIN A TROPHY FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING

The Live Oak cricket team—drawn mostly from the Corps—photographed with Major-General J. D. Lunt, Chief of Staff, Live Oak, after he had presented them with the SHAPE Inter-departmental cricket league trophy.
In the photo left to right: Sergeant Kilby, R.A.O.C., Group Captain Carson, R.A.F., Corporal Barron, Royal Signals, Corporal Davis, R.A.F., Corporal Wells, Royal Signals, Corporal Rooney, Royal Signals, W.O.II Clark, R.A.O.C., Major-General Lunt, Corporal Hanrahan, Royal Signals, P.O. Polkinghorne, R.N., Staff-Sergeant Sharpe, Royal Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, Royal Signals, W.O.I Brown, Royal Signals, Corporal Siggs, Royal Signals, W.O.I Smith, R.A.O.C. and Corporal Gullivar, R.A.F.

Corporals Rooney, Siggs, Brown and **Beresford** are also notables as members of the Live Oak cricket team, football team, and **Brown** and **Siggs** play rugby for the SHAPE XV.

Staff Sergeant Sharpe has a finger in all activities and is commonly known as the second-in-command of everything, and although not a winner of medals, his ever-smiling face and funny entries in the cricket scorebook, as the official scorer, tend to make him a very popular fellow.

The remainder may not be great sportsmen but . . .

The remainder may not be great sportsmen, but they are the best supporters Live Oak could have, and hold such titles as 'i/c refreshments,' 'i/c cricket gear' and 'i/c raffles.'

One of the Live Oak achievements of 1969 was winning the SHAPE inter-departmental cricket league for the second year running, which was captained by **Lieutenant-Colonel Smith.** Also, we had two members in **Corporal Rooney** and myself getting into the quarter-finals of the SHAPE squash knockout competition — **Corporal Rooney** losing his quarter-final and myself going out in the semi-final.

One may think that it is all play and no work in Live Oak, but to let you all see that that we do not lose touch with the outside world, we have had course achievements, as follows: **Corporal Wells** not only passed his ACE I with flying colours, but went to 13th Signal Regiment and got a good pass in his MPTC I. **Corporal Hanrahan** managed another subject in his ACE I. **Corporal Siggs** is away in Catterick flogging at his Commcen Op. B1.

And word has it that the Yeoman has sent for some radio operator precis for those who need the additional trade; so there won't be much slacking.

'The Likely Lads'

On a more personal note I am proud to introduce to you my football team, 'The Likely Lads.'

In an international set-up like SHAPE it was difficult for the U.K. section of the school to run football regularly so I got a few boys together and took them out on Sunday afternoons. This soon blossomed into 15-20 boys and became a regular Sunday afternoon outing.

In May I entered a team in the Brussels XX miniplayers Fairplay Tornoi at the Stad Fallon Stadium in Brussels, along with 200 other contestants in all forms of sport.

Our draw was to play the College Bon Esperance on the main ground, little did we realise that we were to play boys of 14 years of age and when all were formed up on the pitch it was like a school team playing Manchester United. However, the crowd of approximately 5,000 were all on the 'underdogs' side and all were given a tremendous welcome, although we eventually lost 9-2, the boys having a wonderful game.

At the final ceremony we were all surprised to learn that the Likely Lads had won the Fair Play Trophy for the most sporting attitude towards the competition.

We have since played three other local teams in the area and although the Likely Lads ages are only 9-11 years we have a group of boys who are here to stay for a long time.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung visits

ON Tuesday, June 23rd, we welcomed to the College **Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung, M.V.O.,** Gurkha Major of 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment, who, accompanied by his wife, has been visiting units and members of the Royal Corps of Signals in U.K., representing the Commander, Gurkha Signals, at the various celebrations of the Corps' Golden Jubilee.

A MUCH APPRECIATED PRESENTATION

Major Harkabir Gurung, with his wife, shows the Commandant the Pipe Banner presented to the College by 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. Also in the picture are Captain G. H. Mills, Royal Signals and Captain G. E. Beard, R.A.E.C. Partially obscured is Captain Max Young, Royal Signals

At the College, **Major Harkabir** was able to renew acquaintance with four former members of his Regiment: **Colonel Johnny Clinch,** his Commanding Officer from 1962-65, **Captain Gordon Mills** and **Captain Max Young,** Royal Signals, and **Captain George Beard,** R.A.E.C.

During the afternoon, **Major Harkabir** toured the College; later, he took tea in the Mayor's Parlour with the Mayor of Harrogate, **Alderman Edwin Pickard.** In the evening came what was, for us, the highlight of his visit, when he presented to the Pipe Band a Pipe Banner emblazoned with the Badge of 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment. This was the focal point of a small, colourful and very 'family' ceremony in which all three College Bands took part. The Pipe Banner was received by **Pipe Major James Wilson,** K.O.S.B., and affixed to the pipes of the Apprentice Pipe Major, **A/T. Ian Urquhart.**

Major Peter Thain, M.B.E.

Another notable departure from the College this term was that of **Major Peter Thain, M.B.E.,** Royal Anglian, Officer Commanding Scott Squadron since April, 1967.

Commissioned into the 13th Frontier Force Rifles, Indian Army, in February, 1947, he was, on the partition of India, re-commissioned in the Suffolk Regiment. A widely-travelled officer, he has seen service in Greece, Malaya (during the emergency of 1949-51), Trieste, East Africa (including the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya, the revolt of the Sudanese Army, and anti-cattle-rustling operations against the Turkhana and Karamajong tribes in Uganda), Wuppertal and Berlin. In 1962 he was seconded to the Singapore Military Forces to help raise and train the Second Battalion, the Singapore Infantry Regiment. Here he was involved in two serious riots in 1963-64, and in anti incursionist operations in South Johore from 1964-65. From 1965-66 he served with the 5th Malaysian Brigade on the Borneo border.

MAJOR PETER THAIN
He will be much missed

He was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List for 1968, for services rendered to the Singapore Government.

Perhaps it was his penchant for appearing in trouble-spots throughout the world that led to his posting from the cloistered calm of the College to be Training Major to the 5th (Londonderry) Battalion of the Royal Ulster Defence Regiment; but however that may be, he will be much missed. Apart from his impact on Scott Squadron who, under his command, even went so far as to become Champion Squadron three times, his long spell as P.M.C. did much to enliven and ensure the smooth running of the Officers' Mess. The rest of his time he devoted to his boys, to cricket (under his supervision the College team twice reached the quarter-final of the Army Cup), to rugby (he is a qualified referee), to gardening, to music and to literature. With his keen, but kindly, sense of fun, he proved himself truly a man of many parts. The College will wish him luck in his new posting.

Cycling

A/T Calum Watt, whose promising start in the cycling world was recorded in a recent issue of THE WIRE, continues to distinguish himself. On Friday, 26th June, he rode as a member of the full Army team in the Inter-Services' Track Championships on the Harvey Haddon Stadium track, Nottingham.

Competing in the pursuit team and also in the five-mile events, **A/T Watt** helped the Army to win all the events, with a final score of 12 points. As a result of his performance, and although still aged only 18, he was awarded his full Army Colours.

Shooting

A/T Peter Holder, aged 17, a second-term Technician at the College, distinguished himself in the Yorkshire Small-Bore Rifle and Pistol Association's All-comers' Prize Meeting, held at Knostrop Range, Leeds, on Saturday and Sunday, 13th and 14th June.

A/T PETER HOLDER AND HIS CUPS
He followed his elder brother S/Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Holder into the Corps. The Captain of Corps Shooting will, no doubt, have Peter down on his list of up-and-coming Corps marksmen

Competing in his first Open Rifle Meeting, he won the Tindall Challenge Cup, open to all-comers in Class 'D' (those with an average score during the season of 93 per cent or less). He also won the Legard Cup for the best Class 'D' aggregate score at the meeting.

He was one of the team which represented the College at the N.S.R.A. National Meeting at Bisley from 20th to 27th June, results of which are not yet to hand.

Sub-Aqua Club

By W.O.II 'Geordie' Sanderson, Royal Signals

The College Club, now known as the 'Blue Marlins,' have just completed their first major project. In January we purchased Wet-suit material for £70; out of it we have made six complete suits. Anyone in the diving world will tell you that a complete suit 'off the peg' would cost about £21. With the surplus cash we managed to buy two bottles, 75 cubic feet, two demand valves (Seibe Gormon), two compasses, two knives, two depth gauges and two weight belts. **Sergeant 'Jim' Greaves** has become our master tailor, and he can produce a suit in just over five-and-a-half hours. With the new equipment the club entered the sea for the first time on Sunday, 7th June. It was good to see **Apprentice Tradesmen Travers, Hayward** and **Stevenson** fighting a two-inch crab!

Saddle Club

The College started riding as a hobby in the winter term of 1969. In this day and age it is no longer possible to have one's own riding establishment, and the College uses the Prospect Stables, Minskip, near Boroughbridge, which is owned and run by **Miss Frances Davison.**

Ten Apprentices ride regularly each week and all have reached a fair standard. Half of them, in fact, are now jumping in the paddock.

The Club is run by **Captain G. H. Mills,** Royal Signals, and **W.O.I J. D. Griffiths.** Riding has also been arranged for adult staff of the College and for the staff's children.

We may produce a National or Derby winner yet!

1st. Division Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32

ALTHOUGH we had our anniversary celebrations in April, the Regiment had a most pleasant surprise on the morning of Monday, 29th June, when **Colonel P. W. A. Holdsworth,** the C.R.E., 1st Division presented our C.O. with a magnificent shield, a photograph of which appears below. Simply inscribed, the wording reads: "Presented to the Commander, Royal Signals, 1st Division, by the Commander, Royal Engineers, 1st Division, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals, 28th June, 1920, to 28th June, 1970."

This was truly a wonderful surprise, and continues to show that the bond of friendship between the Sappers and Signallers is as strong as ever.

Cricket

Since our last notes, we have progressed through the second round of the Divisional Cup, which was achieved at the expense of 39th Missile Regiment, R.A., whom we beat by 34 runs. **Lance-Corporal Raybould's** score of 38 and **Captain Knox-Johnston's** 28, being a significant contribution to our 140 for 7 in 30 overs, to which 39th Missile Regiment replied with 116.

The next round is against 15/19 Hussars, later in July. However, before this the team will have had a tour in Berlin. They also have tours of Denmark and Holland, planned for August.

That annual event, the Officers versus Sergeants match, took place on Sunday, 21st June. The following account is written by the Officers' Team Captain, **Captain Knox-Johnston:**

Officers versus Sergeants

The Officers v. Sergeants cricket match took place on the Forest Ground, Verden, on Sunday, 21st June. It was decided that the match would be of two innings each, starting at 12.00 hours.

The Officers won the toss and elected to bat on a very hot day. At first scoring was slow, due to negative bowling and good fielding. However, by lunch, the Officers were 101—3. After lunch the officers continued to bat and declared at 151—8, top scorer was **Major O'Hara,** R.A., with 43. When the Sergeants batted they were in immediate trouble—**Sergeant Vanstone** (42) and **Staff Sergeant Mitchell** (12) were the only

(Continued on page 359)

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(Continued from page 357)

two to reach double figures. They were all out for 101. (**Captain Stock,** 5 for 11).

There was now only 1¼ hours to go, and the final of the World Cup started after an hour. However, the Sergeants insisted on the second innings and the Officers went to the crease; 33 runs were scored in 10 minutes and the Officers then declared, leaving the Sergeant 84 to get in 45 minutes to win. This they did, with three minutes to spare, for the loss of three wickets.

It was a most enjoyable day's cricket. The weather was perfect and the ground picturesque. As for the cricket, nearly 400 runs were scored and 21 wickets taken.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Exercise 'Golden Goose'

From its title, you may think this was something to do with the Regimental Pay Office . . . quite correct, after the pressures of work caused by the introduction of the Military Salary, our Paymaster, **Major J. R. Bennett,** R.A.P.C., decided that it was time the Pay Office sampled the 'rigours' of adventure training as described by subalterns (as they put their claims in).

So, whilst the Regiment sat on the square awaiting to depart on Exercise 'Summer Sales,' five cars were loaded with tents, bivouacs, compo—and all the other paraphernalia of camping. Leaving on Thursday, 11th June, they travelled in comfort to the town of Seefeld, which is on the shores of the Attersee, some 30 miles east of Salzburg. Two long climbs (by tracks) up local mountains, a few daring attempts to enjoy the swimming in the alpine lakes, and some fishing by **Corporals Boot** and **Mouncey,** were amongst the activities. They also visited the 'Eagles Nest' at Berchtesgaden (Hitler's retreat), and, of course, had a day in Salzburg. Perhaps the training was not so strenuous as some, but they all came back looking fitter and better for it, ready again to face the endless queue of pay queries, 1771s and petrol coupons.

As we write, about half of the Regiment are away on those summer activities summed up in the heading.

3 Squadron, under the leadership of **Captain P. J. R. Brown,** are climbing their way around mountains in Bavaria and Austria, and we hope to publish a full, illustrated report next month.

1 Squadron are holding a summer camp up on the North Coast near Kiel. There are several exercises yet to take place, and the next month or two sees various groups departing with rucksacks, tents, canoes, and the like. This, of course, has advantages for R.H.Q. Officers, who can get down to some serious work.

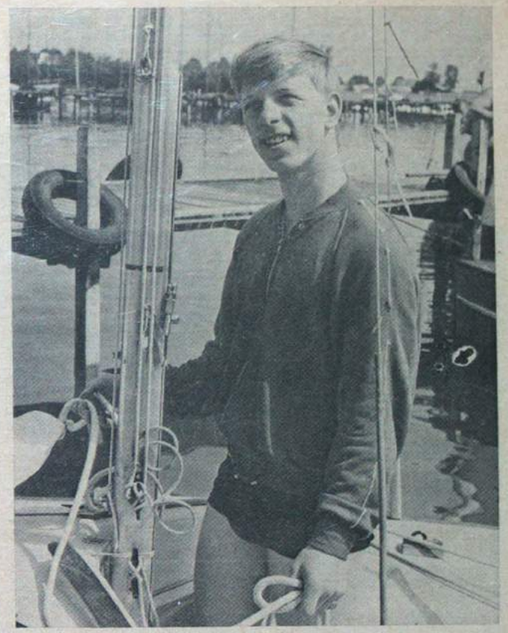
Exercises

June was a busy month. The first week saw the Regiment on a Divisional CPX, Exercise 'Hurst Park'; this was different, if only for the locations. Instead of the usual long drive to and from the exercise area, it was all fairly local. The weather was fine throughout, and this was perhaps the reason for the H.Q. finishing up in so many woods!

Exercise 'Summer Sales,' in the middle of June was another enjoyable week, with clear skies and hot sunny days. Once again in familiar territory, it was a most successful exercise, although village taverns were again somewhat disappointed, as not only were woods in favour, but some 'unusual' locations were found.

2nd Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 46

EXERCISE 'Summer Sales' dominated our month. For 2 Division it was very much a waiting game. Waiting for 7th Regiment to move out of our next location or into the one we had just left. We had our fair share of adventures with gas attacks, crash moves and the like which kept the Regiment on its toes. The World Cup led to TV sets appearing in the most odd places. A colour TV was seen in a well-known wood with a very gloomy audience of Staff Officers witnessing the defeat of the English team.



UP AND COMING SAILOR
Signalman George Bell before a race at Dummersee

Sailing

Sandwiched between exercises were the Division Regatta and the Signals anniversary match. Naturally they were run consecutively so our team was split between the two events. Apart from **Second-Lieutenant West's** dramatic capsize at the Mohne there was a lot of good sailing. **Signalman George Bell** had some particularly good races at the Division meet at Dummer. No prizes were brought home but a lot of experience was gained.

Keyhole Bar opened

Mrs. Col'een Thompson stepped forward in the Officers' Mess on 4th July and declared the Keyhole Bar open and unveiled the keyhole motif on the door. The bar, built on lavish standards, was designed by **Mrs. Thompson** who saw it progress in record time from its blueprint stage in May. The bar now dominates what was the ladies' room, and gives the much-needed extra room required with a Squadron of thirsty aviators who reinforce our equally thirsty Mess members. The bar, with rich leather padding, rheostat controlled lighting, is a great credit to the designer and to **W.O.II May,** our Deputy Works Officer, who produced ideas and, much more important, little men with hammers and paint.

Regimental Sports Day

The Horsfield Trophy was the prize for the Inter-Squadron meeting at Birdwood Barracks on 4th July. The challenge was taken seriously by the Squadrons and clearly some must have been training whilst on Exercise 'Summer Sales.' The three stars that emerged from the two-day meeting were **Lance-Corporal 'Andy' Andrews** of 1 Squadron, **R.S.M. Richardson** and **Sergeant 'Dusty' Miller** of 2 Squadron. That was the order in which they finished in the table for the best athlete. **'Andy' Andrews** won two sprint events and was well placed in several other events. The R.S.M. easily won the stamina events, 880 metres, one mile and three miles. He crushed **Lance-Corporal Ferns,** the Birdwood 'lip,' who had promised to leave the old man standing! A second **'Dusty' Miller**

appeared on the scene in the form of the D.O.P.T., **Major S. E. Miller, M.B.E.** As referee of the meeting he took part in the veterans' race which he regards as his benefit. The Paymaster, **Captain David Price,** with an unprecedented amount of service and therefore compensating start, beat the outraged D.O.P.T. into second place. The Chain of Command race produced its usual crop of injuries amongst the more senior runners. No further bulletins are being issued on a distinguished groin injury.

Although 2 Squadron won a well-fought tug-of-war and R.H.Q. Squadron, heavily disguised as the R.S.V., and his much-raced R.P.s, did extraordinarily well; 1 Squadron won the Inter-Squadron event. It is understood that celebrations in the Squadron Beer Garden should soon end.

Cricket

The Regiment's record to date has been very impressive: Played 11, won 10, drawn 1 and lost 0.

In the B.A.O.R. major units cup we have only played the first match, that being against 50 Missile Regiment which resulted in a comfortable victory. At one stage we were 55-4 but then **Sergeant Don Lightfoot** and **Corporal Peter Carrington** took the score to 190-4 at the end of our 30 overs. The former scored 70 n.o. and the latter 55 n.o. We then dismissed 50 Missile Regiment for 140. So naturally we have high hopes for the future.

The Divisional final is in August and the team is training hard.

Sub-Aqua

Major Colin Bunce, our officer who travels, was last heard of in Italy. Somewhere near Genoa he and some 40 soldiers from the Regiment are diving for dubloons. Rude postcards received from the camp give no indication of the amount of diving that has taken place. It is planned to give this expedition full coverage in our next report.

Note

How many readers have noticed that the Cross Keys badge of 2nd Division was upside down in the last issue? (Red faces somewhere in the Editorial department.—Editor).

3rd. Division Signal Regiment
Bulford Camp

June, 1970

WHAT a month . . . we had everything. Visiting generals, small rifle meetings, big rifle meetings, a Regimental week, plus normal commitments, such as gliding championships, KAPE projects and so on.

50th Anniversary Parade

We had the honour of organising, feeding, accommodating, drilling, and finally taking part in the 50th Anniversary Parade, held on 21st June in Salisbury. Approximately 330 officers and men converged on Carter Barracks in preparation for the great event. Thanks to the Second-in-Command, **Major Guy Rogers,** and his team, everyone found a bed, had a meal, and settled in as though the situation happened every week.

Then it was the turn of the R.S.M.; normally when he wants a drill parade, the Squadron Commanders put their heads together, hatch a dastardly plot and send their men all over the South of England, rather than lose them to 'that man with the big stick.' But this time he was in his glory. He had 48 hours to blend together 450 men from various units, including the Volunteers, into a perfect machine. How they sweated; it was round the square again and again, until it was thought that like the proverb of that certain bird, they might disappear. But eventually they were ready. 21st June arrived, and after a wonderful service in Salisbury Cathedral, the troops formed up.

In front of the Regulars were the Old Comrades, proudly led by their Standard Bearers.

The parade commander was **Colonel T. G. H. Jackson,** O.B.E., C.S.O. of 3rd Division; **Captain M. A. Thorne** and **W.O.I G. E. Morrill,** from the Regiment, had the honour of being Parade Adjutant and R.S.M. respectively.

The salute was taken by the Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.** Through the City they marched, standards carried proudly, medals shining in the morning sun, the bands resplendent in full dress, a sight to stir any red-blooded Englishman.

Then it was over, but not forgotten. One wag suggested that the whole lot should be taken to Catterick to let them see how a parade should be run, and it should happen at least once a month. Little does he know. Then it was back to Bulford; 350 men had to be 'fed and watered' and moved out in the space of two hours, for we had a further 120 men waiting to move in, fingers itching for a crack at the Corps shoot. Once again **Major Rogers** had done his work well. Everyone found his bed, the team captains were meeting, and the rifle meeting was under way. A few notes on the Regiment's progress are penned by **Sergeant Benny Goodman,** of 2 Squadron.

The week flew by and then it was full tilt in the Regimental Week. But as it ran into July, it would be cheating to pen it at this stage, so our goings-on will be listed in the next edition.

Whilst all the activity was going on, we had the pleasure of receiving **Lieutenant-General Sir Mervyn Butler, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,** the G.O.C., STRATCO. Unfortunately, it was only a flying visit, but we feel sure the General was impressed with what he saw, and we hope his next visit will be much longer.

Our next visitor was the Divisional Commander, **Major-General T. D. G. McMeekin, O.B.E.** This, unfortunately, was the General's farewell visit. We all wish him every success in his next appointment and hope we will see him again when he visits 3rd Division.

We also had the pleasure of receiving **Colonel P. H. F. Webb, M.B.E.,** who handed over command of the Regiment to our present C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan** in 1969. We trust that his visit brought back many happy memories.

Shooting

Major D. P. Watson, O.C. 2 Squadron, said "can we produce a rifle team?" "Yes sir," replied the Troop Sergeant, knowing full well that nine-tenths of the Regiment were away at summer camp or on exercise.

It is surprising what can be found in rear details. Monday morning at five-to-eight, the call went round, volunteers are required for a rifle team. By 8.15, an assortment of chaps, weapons, etc., were aboard a truck and away for the first of three days practising for the STRATCO shoot, followed by the Corps Rifle Meeting. Finally, a team was produced consisting of **Major D. P. Watson, Sergeant Keith Cooper, Sergeant Ben Goodman, Corporal Vivian, Corporal Gregg, Lance-Corporal Jones** and **Signalmen Finch, Ward** and **Squair.**

Armed with the various matches written on little pieces of cardboard in our top pockets, we commenced battle. Bulford Ranges, gorgeous sunshine, 'Paddy wagon' delivering tea and buns, lying flat on stomachs, squeezing triggers—who could ask for more? For those who don't know, shooting is, in fact, hard work, even without the rundowns. But try to tell this to the non-shooters. We acquitted ourselves very well, being runners-up in several matches in the STRATCO shoot, and well-placed, considering our lack of experience and practise, in the Corps meeting.

Signalman Ward lost his backsight ten minutes before one match, yet still produced his usual good score, with his sight jammed in place with a match stick. (See the pun?). **'Fearless' Finch** effortlessly produced good scores, but said he did not believe in 'lollipopping.' "Aim for the middle," he said. "What middle," said the two Sergeants, as the No. 12 target disappeared behind their foresights at 200 yards distance.

Finally, the Falling Plate Competition, with the School of Signals running favourite—we beat them. Then 14th Signal Regiment—we beat them. The tension mounted. Next 30th Signal Regiment—we ran, we fired, we won. Then the final, against 7th Signal Regiment. We ran, we didn't fire! "Stop!" yelled the Range Officer, as we were about to drop prone. The trestle supporting the plates had fallen down! We walked (staggered) back to the start point; ten minutes' deep breathing and we ran again and WON. Feeling like Davids of Goliath fame, we sauntered to the beer tent and downed the pints kindly provided by the C.O. "After all, we only came for the beer," said **Signalman Ward.** "And the plates," said **Signalman Finch.**

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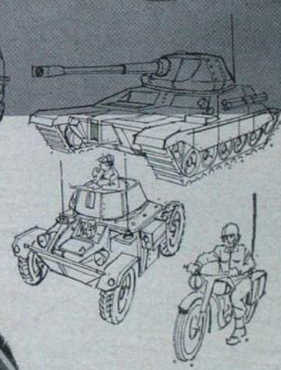

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The Camera catches some of the spirit of the Golden Jubilee Reunion — Catterick, 27th to 28th June 1970

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[Photgraphs: Courtesy J. K. Hendren, 160 Market Place, Richmond, Yorks.

1. **Corps Fanfare Trumpeters open the Retreat Ceremony. Heavy rain had stopped five minutes earlier!**
2. **The large audience watching Retreat**
3. **Later in the evening Major-General David Price (Rep. Colonel Commandant) and Brigadier Tony Tighe (Commander Training Brigade) chatting to an Old Comrade—obviously in good form**
4. **5, 6, 7. No lack of good cheer as the evening wore on**
8. **After Church. A solid array of Standards headed the Parade**
9. **Founder Members led by Colonel F. E. B. Jones march past with pride and spirit**
10. **Old Comrades marching in record number were an impressive sight. The Master of Signals takes his last salute.**
11. **The young regulars were as smart as ever**

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Summer sales

WE were all ready to roll some 24 hours before we eventually left barracks and hence there was a general feeling that the exercise got off to a slow start. **Captain Richards** and his cooks were getting somewhat dazed when plans were laid for meals in the field and these were changed to "in barracks" for three consecutive meals.

However, once we had taken to the road the exercise, for the most part, was interesting and contained the usual amusing incidents. There was a notable absence of cartoons, crosswords and the like being passed over Mufax as the Comheads were fairly hard pressed, particularly during periods of Electronic Silence. It was only after the Unit Security Officer demanded an investigation into the unusually large hidden object in the Auto 40 of **Lance-Corporals Matthews, Lindsay** and **Orr** that he was reminded of the World Cup Competition and that all Comheads were well equipped to watch every minute of every TV broadcast. There was certainly no shortage of 'teles' in the field and the more astute owners who charged 50 pfennigs a look were not only popular but a good deal better off after two days in the field!

The Comcens had a fairly steady exercise with good comfortable locations and, with well sited rebros working satisfactorily, our communications problems were minimal. Some 'notional' moving made life a trifle easier, but we were 'tied' to static Brigades at a control H.Q. This was unusual for us as normally our two Brigades, 4th Guards and 20th Armoured, are anything but static.

'Noddy suits' and respirators were used very frequently on one particular day in Main H.Q. — the hottest, needless to say! Recognition proved difficult at times and a means of identification in this uniform is likely to be devised soon.

A fair wind bloweth

The Regimental dinghy sailing team, consisting of **Major Hartnett, Lieutenants Barnes** and **Stuart, A.S.M. Thomas, Sergeant Abrahams** and **Lance-Corporal Swaile** have so far had two successful matches in the B.A.O.R. team racing championship.

The first encounter with 27th Medium Regiment R.A. was won by 18¾ to 22¼ and was a straight forward sailing dual with all helmsmen sailing as fast as possible.

The second match, on the other hand, was a cut-throat battle and the first race looked bleak as our opponents, 4th/7th R.D.G., held first and second places at the last mark. However, boat number two was 'attacked' by the **Barnes** boat and then the **Hartnett** boat and retired gracefully! The second race was most interesting and places changed continually with a gusty wind and some good team sailing. Eventually we got the better of the 4th/7th team and won the match by 17¾ points to 23¼.

There were many exciting battles within the three races constituting the Regimental Regatta. The real feature of the day was the introduction of a number of newly-rated helmsmen to racing. **Corporal Van Ross, Lance-Corporals Swaile** and **Richardson** and **Signalman Hurrell** all showed a lot of promise for beginners. The crewing was so energetic that it was surprising that no boats capsized to windward. It was agreed that it was a good day and there were many contenders for the six boats that the Regiment had entered in the Royal Signals Regatta.

This regatta was a three-day event with individual racing on the first two days and team racing on the third day. The Regiment took away its fair share of the prizes which were presented by **Mrs. Horsfield,** wife of the Chief Signal Officer. **Major Hartnett,** crewed by his wife, won the overall championship with three wins and a fifth. **Lieutenant Stuart,** crewed by **Sergeant Smith,** was the winner of the novice award. In the team competition our 'A' team (**Major Hartnett, Lieuteants Barnes** and **Stuart,** crewed by **Lance-Corporal Richardson, Swaile** and **Corporal Van Ross** respectively) were runners-up to 7th Signal Regiment after narrowly defeating 1st Regiment in the semi-final, the result depending on a protest!

REGIMENTAL REGATTA WELL SUPPORTED

Helmsmen being briefed before the start of the first race. *Left to right:* Sergeant Ford, Staff-Sergeant Orton, Lance-Corporal Popmacher, Lieutenant Stuart, Signalman Falconer, Lieutenant-Colonel Stonham, Sergeant Smith, Corporal Kent, Major Hartnett, Corporal Jones and Lance-Corporal Lewis

Golf

Our congratulations go to **Foreman of Signals Cochrane,** who recently won the Milne Cup, which is the most coveted trophy of the Sennelager Golf Club. The competition is a 36-hole Stapleford for the trophy presented by **Corporal Milne,** late of the Corps who was the first professional at the club.

Water polo

The Regimental water polo team reached the Divisional final for the first time in many years having knocked out 71 Aircraft Workshops in the semi-final by 3 goals to 1. The team (**Captain Hood, Yeoman Travers, Corporals Hart, Wheatley, Dando, Lock, Neville, Lance-Corporal Forsyth, Signalman McSween** and **Sapper Bathie**) took to the water against 27th Medium Regiment R.A. for the final. Our opponents won comfortably by 9 goals to 1, but it was an enjoyable game and did not feel as one-sided as the score suggests. Our team was not quite so highly motivated as the Gunners for whom victory meant water polo in lieu of R.A. practice camp!

Birthday presentation

Padre Rennison conducted a very pleasant Morning Service on Sunday, 28th June, 1970, and the large attendance was gratifying. Following the Service the Officers adjourned to the Mess and, before settling down to a curry lunch, witnessed a birthday presentation. The Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Stonham,** made a short speech before asking the Divisional Commander, **Major General D. W. Fraser,** to accept a figure of 'Mercury' on behalf of all mess members from the Regimental Officers.

The presentation completed, the G.O.C. thanked the Colonel and Officers for the figure and the gesture behind its presentation. 'Jimmy' was then placed in a ready made glass presentation case in the main entrance hall of the Officers Mess.

Sergeants' celebrate

On Saturday, 27th June, 1970, the Sergeants' Mess held a ladies' dinner night followed by a ball, which was attended by a total of 150 members, ladies and guests. In preparing for this function several venues were suggested, investigated and rejected, until finally we had a brilliant idea — hold the entire function in the Sergeants' Mess.

For those of you who remember the dimensions and believe it to be impossible — so did we, but with the blind faith of the Mess Manager, **Mr. George Bogunovic,** and Mess Sergeant, **Tom Cross,** the impossible was achieved.

Designed to provide a long overdue dinner night for the ladies and also to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Corps, it was guaranteed success from the start, but no one would have dared to predict just how fantastically successful it would turn out to be.

During his speech **R.S.M. A. R. Hill** mentioned another prominent anniversary at midnight, the 'Golden! Wedding' of **Sergeant Morris Pearson,** and his wife, **Barbara.** He also said farewell to **Sergeant Bob Davison, R.P.C.,** and his wife, **Maureen,** complimenting them on being our most colourful exponents of teenage fashion, and being kind enough to say that **Maureen's** startling bottomless, topless, backless and strapless creations had always found favour in his eyes.

Precisely at midnight a dramatic surprise — a male voice choir composed of members of Regiments and Corps other than Royal Signals, under the skilful baton of **W.O.II (S.Q.M.S.) Eric Slater, R.A.P.C.,** sang "Happy Birthday Royal Signals, Happy Birthday to You." What a splendid example of integration at its best (and a current rumour that they were detailed and forcibly framed is unfounded!).

The R.S.M. presented an anniversary bouquet of roses and carnations to **Mrs. Barbara Pearson,** for which he received a kiss, which prompted other ladies to have a check of their anniversary dates. The closest was 10 years and 17 days — only 348 days to wait!

The raffle produced some wonderful prizes and even made a profit, under the skilful persuasion of **Sergeants Bernie Glen, R.A.O.C.,** and **Tony Morris, R.A.M.C.,** Whichever one of them offered a weekend with the R.S.M. as the last prize has a great deal of explaining to do to several ladies who wanted tickets, and one in particular who claimed she had won him!

W.O.II Frank Hothersall, A.C.C., produced yet another superb meal, the band of the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales) provided excellent music until 3.00 a.m. and finally a stately drive home at some time after 4 a.m., with the birds warbling merrily.

One final note: **Sergeant Taffy Jones, R.E.,** insisted a 'Redcoat' would be last to leave, but **Sergeant Tony Morris, R.A.M.C.,** was determined it would be a 'Blackcoat.' We left them there, singing "Men of Harlech" and reliving Rorke's Drift, but who did win?

Summer camp

As these notes go to the Editor half the Regiment is at Summer Camp on an island in the Mosel near Treis. We hope next month to give you a full account of the goings on there, or some of them! It is, of course, our second visit and a number of local inhabitants claim to have remembered us from last year!

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

MOST of the month has been taken up with exercises. The Regiment was out in full strength for 'Summer Sales,' back in camp for a brief weekend before re-deploying for 'Northern Signal' (cum 'Sky Blue, cum 'Sigex'), and then, to cap it all, called out on 'Quick Train' four days later—just as the vehicle repainting programme was well under way. So there wasn't much time for other activities.

Shooting

We reported last month on our modest success in B.A.O.R. meetings. This month our team went to U.K. for the Corps shoot at Bulford. The members of the team were **Captain Ray Raynor, Lieutenant Tony Singleton, Staff Sergeant Barry Hassell, Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell, Sergeant Philip Taffinder, Corporal Fred Giles, Corporal Pete Barratt, Lance-Corporal 'Bones' Wishart, Lance-Corporal Dave Turner,** and, last but not least, **Sergeant 'Titch' Reynolds** who, as non-shooting team captain, managed the team so successfully. Although the only outright win was that of **Lieutenant Singleton** as an individual in the 'Roberts,' the team came second in Roupell, Whitehead, Association Cup, Unit Championship, Falling Plate.

We also gained third place in the Small Arms Cup, and three of the team, **Lieutenant Singleton, Staff Sergeant Hassell** and **Sergeant Bell,** were invited to represent B.A.O.R. in the Methuen. Congratulations to them all on a very fine effort.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

Positively the most apposite celebration of the Jubilee was the ladies' night in the Sergeants' Mess. Our correspondent reports . . .

W.O.s and Sergeants Celebrate in Style. — To mark the actual day of our 50th Anniversary, we celebrated with a grand dinner, ball and breakfast. By 8.30 p.m., sherry glasses were empty and dinner was ready. Then, led by **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. M. E. Wilson,** we made our way, in very colourful procession, from the Mess to the restaurant, where we were played in by the Band of The 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards, conducted by **W.O.II B. McCabe.**

Our P.M.C., **W.O.II Terry Cushen,** and P.E.C., **W.O.II Paddy Magowan,** ably assisted by **W.O.II Roy Cockroft** managed to 'obtain' sufficient furniture and tableware to seat 186, and made a superb job of preparing the tables and restaurant. **Sergeant John Wall** (A.C.C.) and his team of cooks prepared an excellent six-course dinner, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Three toasts, The Queen, The Royal Corps of Signals and The Ladies, raised our spirits. Then the R.S.M. made a speech and presented a sword each to **W.O.I (Y. of S.) Pete Kent** and **W.O.I (F. of S.) Frank Smith,** both of whom are leaving us shortly on commissioning. We were then pleasantly surprised when the R.S.M. presented each of us with his personal donation of a 50th Anniversary gold inscribed glass.

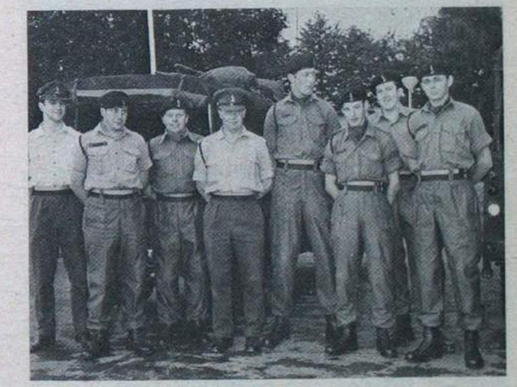
After speeches by **Yeoman Kent** and **Foreman Smith,** and when the strains of 'Begone dull Care' had faded, we walked back to the Mess, just in time to open champagne and celebrate the arrival of 28th June, 1970.

The ball then got off to a good start and we were delighted when our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Birtwistle** and **Mrs. Birtwistle** joined us. Another surprise came during the ball when **Staff Sergeant Bernie Olley** (R.E.M.E.) and **Staff Sergeant Bob Aubrey** (R.E.M.E.) organised all the non-Royal Signals members into a choir and sang 'Happy Birthday, Royal Signals' to a cheering audience.

Breakfasting started at four o'clock and, like the band and the dancing, was still going well at six o'clock, when some of us decided it was time to depart.

KAPE

To keep the public in U.K. up to the mark on life in B.A.O.R., we have sent off the first of two KAPE teams to Bradford and Sheffield. This team is commanded by **Lieutenant Roger Whitehead** and consists of two C42/C11 detachments from this Regiment, and two D11 detachments from our sister Regiment, 22. The next team leaves in a month's time.



U.K. BOUND TO KEEP THE ARMY IN THE PUBLIC EYE (KAPE)

Left to right: Lieutenant Roger Whitehead, Signalman 'Moggy' McLean and 'Ginge' Tate, Lieutenant-Colonel Bertwistle (C.O.) Signalman Ian Poole, Lance-Corporal Dave Harlam, and Signalman Jock McLean

Footnotes

Congratulations to **Lance-Corporal 'Jonah' Jones** who, with a scratch partner, reached the quarter-finals of the men's open doubles in the B.A.O.R. Tennis Championships. At that point they came up against the second seeds and bowed out gracefully.

We recently experienced an auto failure. It turned out to be caused by the cows requiring to get into the byre for milking and they just couldn't wait.

8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Congratulations

PRIDE of place goes to **Mr. George Edward Mills,** charge-hand labourer, affectionately known and remembered by those who have served in Catterick Camp over the past 24 years as 'Joe' on his award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 1970.

Joe Mills enlisted in the Corps in 1924 and, on leaving the colours in 1946, after 21 years' service, joined the staff of the School of Signals as a civilian. He served with the School for 21 years and was transferred to 8th Signal Regiment in June, 1967, when the School moved to Blandford.

He formally retired at the age of 65, in February of this year, but elected to continue to serve, and is still an active and valued member of the civilian staff.

He enjoys the distinction of completing 46 years' combined military and civilian service with Royal Signals this year.

Congratulations on a well-deserved reward for a lifetime of valuable service.

WELL DESERVED

Mr. George Edward Mills being congratulated by the Commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass on his award of the B.E.M.

Wedding

On Saturday, 4th July, **Lieutenant Lesley Hattley,** W.R.A.C. (spinster, of this Regiment), married **Captain Colin Cruickshank** (bachelor, of this Regiment). The Regiment was well represented, and those that know of the dramas over Colin's car, are wondering whether the happy couple ever got to their honeymoon in Austria.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

Those of our readers who have visited the Mess would hardly recognise it now. It has been completely renovated and now looks like a first class lounge bar. It was officially opened on 22nd May, and an old-fashioned lunch-time 'session' was enjoyed by all. Who said it was fortunate we stood down for Whit break on that day.

Immediately after the break life became hectic for all members, especially the committees, with the preparation for the Old Comrades' Golden Jubilee Weekend. There were the usual last-minute hitches, but in spite of these, the Mess was ready and the bar open to receive our 370 Old Comrades by 10.00 on 27th June.

The evening's entertainment was due to start at 21.00 hours, but due to our normal Catterick weather, the R.S.M. arrived to a packed Mess a good hour before the festivities were due to start.

Later in the evening the usual round of V.I.P.s started, the highlight visit being by the retiring Master of Signals, **Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** who stayed for nearly an hour chatting to founder members and many old soldiers who had served with him in his many years as a professional soldier.

The shutters were finally pulled down on a very successful Golden Jubilee Weekend at 23.59 hours on 28th June.

SPORTS

Garrison Combat Race

Perhaps the Garrison Combat Race is not regarded by all as a 'sport.' 24th Signal Regiment ran a very successful event again this year. Two teams competed from the Regiment, consisting almost entirely of basic trainees, one team finishing a very creditable fourth place and the other finishing tenth.

Tug-of-war

The 100-stone team has been undergoing some strenuous training under the watchful eye and enthusiastic coaching of **Lieutenant Ken Hadfield.** Having won the Brigade, District and Command Championship, they are now preparing for the Army finals on 27th/28th July.

9th Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 53

Water sports

OUR neighbours, 262 Signal Squadron, organised a splendid day's entertainment to celebrate Princess Royal Day. Celebrations started with a church service at Dhekelia, and after lunch it was off to the beach for a light-hearted competition between the Signal Squadrons on the island.

2 Squadron proved champions of the day led by that well known water babe, **W.O.II (S.(R)Q.M.S.) Tom Cooper.** Relay races, underwater plate hunting, a frolic in dinghies and 'greasy pole and pillow' competition formed the main attractions.

Among the victors, the greasy pole experts — looking decidly bandy-legged — were **Corporal Bob Holwell, Signalman Jim Leivers** and **Signalman Stew Parrish.** The dinghy frolicking team, with **W.O.II Cooper** and **Signalman Al Cripps** have now recovered from the effects of a surfeit of salt water.

Horse of the Year Show

One of our many thriving clubs is the Famagusta Saddle Club and this year it was their turn to stage the All Island one day trials. Over 300 people turned out to watch an exciting day's sport.

Dressage and show jumping took place in the morning and the cross-country event in the afternoon.

Regrettably, the Regiment did not excel, finishing third, but it was a stirling effort on behalf of a small club riding against very experienced horsemen from other parts of the island. A special mention goes to **Signalman 'Stew' Kennedy** who is one of our up and coming riders.

The club at the moment, is not well patronised by Royal Signals personnel but, come October, a full scale recruiting drive to get more Corps members will be well under way.

Messing about in boats

With summer upon us, chartering the Regimental boat, *Hermes*, is becoming an ever increasingly popular pastime. For the Famagusta beach dwellers, it is a regular sight to see *Hermes* chugging off into the morning sun loaded to the gunwales with beach chairs, sun shades, cold boxes and crates of refreshment.

Rumour has that the craft is powered by a revolutionary type of engine, fuelled by any of the three local grades of beer available. Perhaps the trail of empty cans slowly sinking in the blue Mediterranean has something to do with it!

Champion Squadron

Gather together the trophies won by 1 Squadron in 1970 so far and its easy to see how they have earned the title 'Champion Squadron' 1970. Their victories include the Cyprus Minor Units Football and Basketball Knockout competitions, the Minor Units Athletics team competition and the C.S.O.s Athletics meeting. At shooting, too, honours go to the 1 Squadron team in winning the C.S.O.s Falling Plate competition, and individually the S.L.R. and S.M.G. competition.

It is with much regret, therefore, that we say goodbye to two of the Squadron's key figures, both on retirement. The O.C., **Major John Williams,** who leaves to practice law, and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bert Fugill.**

It is reported that the Sergeant Majors departure brought tears to the eyes of the Regimental barber, but after a brief introduction to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Ray Danells** his confidence was restored and, drying his eyes, he was last seen ordering a new car.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Contributed by W.O.I (R.S.M.) Bill Smith

On 19th June, the Royal Signals members of the Mess played host to all the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals senior N.C.O.s on the island at a 50th Anniversary Dinner.

The Dinner Committee, chaired by **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bob Hope,** did an excellent job and we managed to seat 130 senior N.C.O.s.

During the dinner **W.O.II (S.S.M.) 'Fip' Rice,** our principle Royal Engineer guest, presented the Mess with a magnificent silver tray on behalf of 62 (N.E.) Support Squadron R.E. This is, I believe, the first piece of silver ever presented to our Mess.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that a large number of us, Royal Engineers and Royal Signals, had been together as boys at the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate.

With the 50th Anniversary Dinner under our cummerbunds thoughts within the Mess turned to the Summer Ball. This time it was **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Dave Shakespeare's** turn to chair the committee and with some 370 people attending, it was no small task.

Needless to say it was 'O.K. on the day' and our Summer Ball was even better than in previous years. We danced to the band of the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry. The band, part of the resident United Nations Battalion, had to return to their unit at 4 a.m., but judging by the number of guests who had breakfast, it is certain that most could have danced till lunch-time.

For the record

We won the Rutwell Trophy again this year at the Officers v. Sergeants games evening — maybe it was because **Major (Q.M.) Jack Harding** was not present to do the scoring!

Stop Press

With the aid of the R.S.Y.C. Commander 3rd Signal Group, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** and the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** the Regiment this week took delivery of a four-berth yacht, to fill the long-awaited need of the off-shore sailors, land bound since the loss of *Cito* in October, 1967.

The *Mhairi* was sailed from Akrotiri to Famagusta by **Major Lawrie Moran, Captain John Francis** and **Staff Sergeant 'Rusty' Rosson.** The only statistics to hand are that the non-stop passage took just on 22 hours and 48 cans of Double Diamond (advert!). Arrangements are now in full swing to ensure a full charter programme for *Mhairi* during the coming season.

An article will appear (with the kind permission of the Editor) in the next issue of the THE WIRE. Reserve your copy now.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Principal appointments

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant - Colonel F. C. Lockwood**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major D. M. Humphries**
Adjutant	...	**Captain R. P. Gravestock**
R.S.M.	...	**W.O.I (R.S.M.) F. M. Orr**
O.C. H.Q. Squadron	...	**Major E. F. Carrel**
O.C. 1 Squadron ...	...	**Major D. A. Brockhurst**
O.C. 2 Squadron ...	...	**Major M. O. N. Bird**
O.C. 1 Wing	...	**Major S. Wood**

Pass off parades

COLONEL J. C. **Clinch,** Commandant of the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, took the salute at the Pass Off Parade of Nos. 1 and 5 Troops on 12 June, 1970.

Signalman Malone achieved a notable double by gaining both the best recruit and best shot awards of 1 Troop. He is now training as a Radio Operator with 24th Signal Regiment. **Signalman Kelly** of 5 Troop was the best recruit of his troop. **Signalman Keily,** who comes from Wallaford, Midiothian, now goes to 8th Signal Regiment to train as a lineman.

The recruits of Nos. 3 and 6 Troops passed off on a parade on 23rd June, the Inspecting Officer was **Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Cleland,** Royal Signals. On this occasion the parade was held on a Tuesday instead of a Friday. This change was made so that the Troop could practice for a drill display which was included in the Sunday afternoon programme for the Royal Signals At Home Weekend. A very high standard was reached both for the Pass off parade and the drill display. There will be more about the latter in the notes for the At Home Weekend.

The best recruits were **Signalman Mountcastle** of 3 Troop and **Signalman Prince** of 6 Troop.

Prior to joining the regular Army **Signalman Mountcastle** served in the 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment T.A., reaching the rank of sergeant.

Signalman Prince was a policeman before joining the Army. Later this year he will go to 8th Signal Regiment for training as a technician.

Cricket

At the beginning of the season the cricket officer had high hopes of being able to raise a formidable team as it seemed that a wealth of talent was available for selection. Within the space of two weeks, however, **Sergeant Mason, Sergeant Sixsmith** and **Signalman Grosssmith** were posted and hopes of a strong side were dashed.

Despite this setback the Regimental XI has won four matches and lost only two to date. One of our failures was to lose the match with the Army Apprentice College, Harrogate, in the Army Major Units Knockout Cup. The Regiment is well placed in the Garrison Minor Units Group.

Personalities who have figured prominently in matches so far are **Captain J. Radford, Lieutenant J. A. Speakes, Staff Sergeant Probert, Sergeant Hilder** and **Signalman Grosssmith.**

Our congratulations to **Lieutenant Speakes** on being selected to represent the Corps against R.E.M.E. on 16th/17th June, a match in which his fielding played a major part in the win for Royal Signals.

Athletics

The Brigade meeting was held in mid-June. This was the first competition the Regiment has entered this year. We are delighted to report that we were second to 8th Signal Regiment, beating the other giant 24th Signal Regiment. Congratulations to **Lieutenant Fish** and **Signalman Mair** for gaining first place in the long jump and to **Lieutenant Fish, Corporal Kenyon, Lance-Corporal Hedges** and **Signalman Mair** for their win in the 4 x 220 yds. Understandably, we have high hopes for the Northern Command Championships in July which we enter as a Minor Unit.

Farewell to . . .

Lieutenant L. S. B. Day, W.R.A.C., who after a regretably short stay here goes to Hounslow; **W.O.II H. Jennings** who has moved to 30th Signal Regiment as R.S.M.; **W.O.II (S.S.M.) S. Brown** who moves on to 222 Signal Squadron (SHARJAH); **Signalman E. W. H. Rackham** now at 21st Signal Regiment.

Welcome to . . .

Major S. Wood who has taken over command of 1 Wing; **Lieutenant P. L. Bradbury,** WR.A.C., who is our new Assistant Adjutant; **W.O.II L. G. Didlick** the R.Q.M.S. Technical; **Sergeant A. Bailey** as a recruit troop Sergeant; **Corporal C. R. Hill** as a weapon training instructor and **Lance-Corporal D. G. Alexander** now adventure training in Culty Braggan.

Marriage

We wish every happiness to **Lance-Corporal G. Wood** and his bride, **Christine.**

Brigade Skill at Arms

The Brigade Skill at Arms meeting was held on the 5th and 6th June in glorious sunny and warm weather. Having a small Cadre it is difficult for us to field strong teams in most sports, however, in this particular event being the mentors to the Corps

we look for success. This year, as previously, we were not disappointed. In the S.M.G. Team match our 'A' team, consisting of **Lieutenant Howard, Sergeant Pinn, Corporal Rattray** and **Signalman Cook,** was first, and the 'B' team, consisting of **Major Wood, Sergeant Nicholls, Corporals Kenyon** and **Minter,** was second. Likewise in the Pistol Team match our 'A' team, consisting of **Lieutenant Howard, Sergeant Tambling** and **Corporal Rattray,** was first.

Major Humphries and **Lieutenant Howard** respectively drew the Pool Bull in the rifle and S.M.G. matches.

Apart from the effort put on by the individuals and the teams our success was due to the great effort that **Captain Joe Walsh** put into the training. Our thanks go to him for giving up so much of his free time, and by showing such a great interest. We now hope that his efforts will be rewarded at the Corps and Bisley meetings.

Exercise 'New Envoy'

A report by Signalman Rose and Watkins

On the 14th June along with ten of our friends from C.T. Troop we travelled to Aldershot to spend seven days on Exercise 'New Envoy.' The aim on our part of the exercise was to demonstrate to the public the methods by which judo is taught in the Army. Our party was led by **W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) Norris** who is in charge of our reigmental gymnasium.

The rehearsals and demonstrations took place on the sports field in Queen's Avenue. During the week we learnt the correct method of falling and mastered the elementary throws. We made good progress and if we had had more time we would have been able to gain the Yellow Belt.

The days were long and the work was hard and exhausting, but nevertheless, good fun. It was gratifying to see the interest shown by the population of Aldershot. Even during the rehearsals on the first two days there was always a crowd of interested spectators. Many thousands visited the demonstration, on Sunday, 21st June, it was estimated that the spectators numbered 250,000.

It was a very interesting time in our short Army career and has whet our appetite for another sport which we hope to continue at trade training and in our field units.

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

Training Wing

OUR Training Wing continues to train a large number of soldiers in B.A.O.R. to qualify at Military Proficiency Class I and II level. Our aim, as always, is to train some 280 soldiers by the end of the year. In spite of staff shortages, we are well on the way to achieving this by December. Our Training Wing Staff consists of: Officer Commanding, **Lieutenant Craig Treeby;** Instructors, **W.O.II Jack Jones; Sergeants John Horne, Bill Leslie** and **'T.C.' Smith.**

The training programme includes a 24-hour exercise at Leuth, our local training area, during which our students are able to demonstrate all their new knowledge; and our instructors have the opportunity of getting some 'fresh air' as the very active directing staff. A new feature in our programme is a late evening 'Night Noises' exercise, during which **Sergeants John Horne** and **Bill Leslie** manage to produce the kind of noises which, in an otherwise relatively-still setting are quite distinctive. You can imagine the rattling of mess tins, the knocking-in of tent pegs and the inevitably crisp adjective from a cold and tired soldier. Our present course will pass off on 17th July. On this occasion the inspecting officer will be **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Hibberd,** from H.Q., B.A.O.R.

Local knowledge

We have already written about our 'get to know the area' visits, and in our last contribution to THE WIRE, we said that the planned visit to the Dortmund Brewery was 'popular' . . . it was a sell-out!

Our party of 30 all ranks, accompanied by our Adjutant, **Captain Tony Seward,** arrived at the brewery bang on time, after an interesting journey—not a single wrong turning, not a moment's delay, with songs, the 'rugby variety,' from **Corporal John Howells,** who distinguished himself with his inexhaustible repertoire. Almost a pity we had to stop on our arrival, but the thought of examining a brewery did it.

A guide met the party at the entrance to the brewery and explained how it all happens during a most interesting tour. We now have a number of well-versed soldiers who know all about sugar extracts, hops, etc. A sight of the vats capable of holding eight million litres of beer and the 'James Bond' storage containers able to maintain a flow of 400,00 litres every hour was followed by a tour of the fully-automated bottling department, where bottles are filled, corked, labelled and crated at the rate of 300 bottles every 12 minutes.

The last item on the programme was very special, our hosts entertained us to a splendid buffet and 'some' of that beer we now know so much about.

SPORTS

Athletics

Immediately after our Regimental Athletics Meeting our Athletics Officer, **Captain Bill Lockie,** knuckled down to the business of selecting and training our Regimental team for the Rhine Area stage of the B.A.O.R. Championships. The opposition was known to be strong and the standards were high.

The meeting was held at Münchengladbach on 16th June on a rather dull day, not the best of days for athletics, nevertheless several new Rhine Area records were established. We were delighted to win the hammer event (congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Dave Brown** and **Corporal Dago Leighton),** and to win the WRAC 80 metre hurdles in which **Lance-Corporal Maggie Buxton** not only won this event most convincingly but also established a new Rhine Area record, having broken the existing record by 4 seconds. Well done **Lance-Corporal Maggie Buxton.** Her name is now well known to the Inter-Service selectors!

Our final placings were: Men's competition, 4th; WRAC competition, 2nd. Our team is now training hard for the Morrison cup and with a modicum of luck we should improve our placing.

Swimming

We have set about training a Regimental swimming team and **Captain Gerry Purvis** and **W.O.II Jack Jones** have made use of every opportunity to get in as much swimming training as possible. Not the easiest of tasks since we do not have a swimming pool although we sincerely hope to have our own pool in the not too distant future.

Our swimming and water polo teams entered the Rhine Area Major Units Championships for the first time in a number of years. In the circumstances our team deserve our congratulations, especially the water polo team for being runners-up in the championships and our freestyle and breast-stroke relay teams for winning their event and establishing two new Rhine Area records.

Sergeants' Mess

It's happened, it's happening and it is going to happen. Our new Mess continues to flourish with a continuous stream of functions; these being so numerous and successful, one can only mention but a few. On May Day we descended on 28th Regiment in full force for a return games evening. **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Brian Turner** played host to the limits. Naturally we came away with a fine cup. Who will fill their trophy cupboard first? (see 28th Regiment's notes May-June). Before leaving, our President **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Eric Filder,** presented **R.S.M. Turner** with a suitably inscribed Pagan Axe which marked the end of a memorable and most enjoyable evening. Thank you again 'Franciscans.'

A 'Trippy Night' was held on 13th June and many modes of 'way out' gear were worn. **Sergeant Mick Hingley** and his wife **Merrion** won first prize, with **Mrs. Margaret Joblin** and **W.O.II Peter Merritt** coming close behind. Our thanks to the P.M.C., **W.O.II John Morrison,** and P.E.C., **Staff Sergeant (now W.O.II) Peter Goonan,** and committee for a successful evening.

We were honoured by a visit from the Chief of Staff B.A.O.R., **Major-General T. N. S. Wheeler, C.B., C.B.E.,** on 25th June. The Chief of Staff cut the ribbon and officially opened our new accommodation annex (mini Hilton); once inside he unveiled a plaque bearing his name to commemorate the occasion.

EXTENSION TO W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS OPENED
Major-General T. N. S. Wheeler cutting the tape at the opening of the new W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess accommodation annex

Together with our ladies we sat down to a 50th Anniversary Dinner at 9 p.m. on Saturday, 27th June. Our guests of honour were the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. C. Baldwin,** and **Mrs. Baldwin.** The officers who are leaving the Regiment in the near future also attended with their ladies; included in the long list were our R.V.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Dalgleish,** and the Second-in-Command, **Major E. L. Rogers.**

After an excellent meal prepared by the Catering Warrant Officer, **W.O.II Joe Kavanagh,** and served by our Caterer, **Sergeant 'Geordie' Joblin,** L.I., and his team, we finally rose from the table 3 hours 20 minutes later.

This coming Friday, 10th July, we entertain the Corporals of the Regiment to a games evening, the results will be published later, but we have heard that the Corporals have been practising the boat race in the J.R.C.—so it could be a close finish (who's kidding who)!

The grand summer ball this year is being held in the Mess, not the gymnasium, on 18th July and weather permitting a barbecue is being organised for 5th September. Later in the month a return games evening with 28th Regiment at home, and on this occasion it will be their turn to win!

To all this we can only say, "If you work hard you can afford to play hard."

Recent arrivals: **W.O.I E. H. Cooper, Staff Sergeant J. Hammond, Staff Sergeant F. G. G. Jones, R.E., Staff Sergeant S. Law, Sergeant J. W. Garbutt, Sergeant L. J. Hansford, R.E.M.E,. Sergeant W. Helme.**

Recent departures: **Staff Sergeant R. C. Willars, Staff Sergeant R. Cockburn, Staff Sergeant C. Harding, Sergeant D. Miller, Sergeant Morgan, R.E.M.E., Sergeant H. Parkinson, Sergeant T. E. Edwards, Sergeant D. Bulley, Sergeant G. Adlington.**

14th Signal Regiment Worcester

50th Anniversary Parade at Salisbury

ALONG with other Royal Signals units in Army Strategic Command, this Regiment were invited to send a representative Squadron to join the Corps parade at Salisbury on Sunday, 21st June. While the parade will undoubtedly be reported in detail elsewhere, it is worth recording that all those who took part—in the end—enjoyed themselves. Those who thought they were taking part in 'just another parade' soon realised how unique the occasion was, and it is thought that the awareness of this, coupled with the size of the parade of both serving and ex-members of the Corps caused everyone to make that extra bit of effort. It goes without saying that the 14th Regiment Squadron, under **Major B. Complin** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) A. S. Walton,** was the best of a very good bunch.

Competition shooting

Having won the annual Inter-Squadron Small Arms Meeting fairly convincingly, Headquarters Squadron team, under the non-shooting captaincy of **W.O.II (S.S.M.) D. Livermore,** represented the Regiment in both the Army Strategic Command Signal Unit Competition and the Corps Meeting, held recently. In the former meeting, the team did well and brought the Parachute Regiment SMG Cup back to Worcester. At the same meeting, **Sergeant A. Scott** was the SMG (Class A) individual winner and **Sergeant J. Underwood,** R.E.M.E., won the non-Royal Signals prize. At the Corps meeting we were out-shot by better teams, though honour was saved by being placed equal first in one match.

Thornton House School Summer Camp — a job well done

Perhaps one of the penalties of good, effective local public relations is that as the Regiment becomes better known, more and more requests are made to the unit for assistance. One of the great problems is to try and sort out the requests of persons or organisations that really need help from the, alas, growing numbers who simply try and use the Service as a cheap and reliable way of getting things done.

When this Regiment is convinced that the request is genuine, and we have accepted the task as being within our capabilities, both in equipment and—more important—time, then the 'customer' can be assured of a job really well done.

Such was the case when the R.S.M., **W.O.I D. H. Rumsey,** undertook to run a week's summer camp for Thornton House, a local school for handicapped children.

W.O.I Rumsey, after much organisation and planning, as well as a considerable amount of scrounging, set off to Borth, a little place about five miles north of Aberystwyth, on the Welsh coast. With him he took 28 children, three adults, including the headmaster, from the school staff, and his own 'handicap' of five volunteers from the Regiment. Add to this the personal luggage, the tentage, and all the paraphernalia of camping, and one has some idea of the size of the party that arrived in Wales on that—inevitably—wet afternoon.

Leaving the children in the protection of the vehicles, the military party soon got to work building camp. In spite of

EXERCISE QUICKTRAIN (WORCESTER VERSION)
W.O.I. (R.S.M.) D. Rumsey assisted by Signalman D. Ward and Corporal C. Myers load up before taking the children of Thornton House School to camp for a week

some difficult moments with the marquees, all was soon in order. Under the R.S.M.'s overall direction, **W.O.II Livermore** assumed the appointment of head cook, and after the kitchen was erected, he did not emerge again until the end of camp. His efforts were truly remarkable and much praised by all. **Corporal C. Myers,** aided by **Signalman D. Ward,** got the bivouacs up. Camp was under way. The week was all too quickly over. In spite of the splendid efforts of **Sergeant J. Burns** and **Mr. T. Bailey,** a civilian driver employed by the Regiment, who was of tremendous value and gave enthusiastic assistance in every possible situation, in providing almost non-stop swimming, games and walks, the children seemed inexhaustible. There is little doubt that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were sorry when it was all over. The warmth of their feelings being clearly shown in their many spontaneous gifts of sweets, etc., to the military staff at the end of camp.

In his letter to the Commanding Officer after the camp, the Headmaster wrote that "R.S.M. Rumsey and his associates worked as I have never seen men work before . . . no task was too menial and no situation too difficult."

Praise indeed for a job well done and made so worthwhile by the obvious affection of the children and the sincerity of those who asked for help.

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

C.O.	**Lieutenant-Colonel R. Pope, Royal Signals**
Second-in-Command ...	**Major R. J. Armstrong, Royal Signals**
Adjutant	**Captain C. D. A. Blessington, Royal Signals**
O.C. W.R.A.C.	**Major P. Ineson, W.R.A.C.**
O.C. H.Q.	**Major F. A. L. Terrey, Royal Signals**
O.C. 1	**Major (Tfc) S. J. Wyatt, Royal Signals**
O.C. 2	**Major C. F. Lewis, Royal Signals**
O.C. 3	**Major P. J. F. White, Royal Signals**
O.C. 4	**Major W. R. Mayne, Royal Signals**

A VERY varied time has been had in recent weeks — the weather has been very fickle from heat wave to monsoon in a matter of hours. The resulting changes of uniform, shirt sleeves, woolly pully, mackintosh even managed to confuse the R.S.M.

The re-opening of our swimming pool brought forth the 'old mermen,' who under the guidance of our two 'ancient mariners,' **Captain (Tfc) Peter Metcalfe** and **Major (T.O.T.) Peter Foakes,** won both the Rhine Area Major Unit Swimming Championships and the Water Polo Championships. We hope they do as well in Berlin in the B.A.O.R. championships.

Saturday, 27th June was a hectic day for **Major Charles Lewis** and his assistants who organised our gala day. Based on the 'It's A Knockout' theme, teams from each of the squadrons competed at various events during which they were either baulked by obstacles or soaked with water. The day culminated with an All Ranks Dance and Barbecue which went off extremely well. A special mention must be made of the stirling work done by our cooks and P.R.I. staff who worked hard all day making and selling various goodies and drinks. The resulting 2,000D.M. for charities made it all so very well worthwhile.

18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

IT has appeared to be reasonably quiet in the Regimental area of late and some attribute this to the absence of 249 Signal Squadron on Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' (fully reported elsewhere). Nevertheless despite appearances life in Singapore has continued at its normal busy pace.

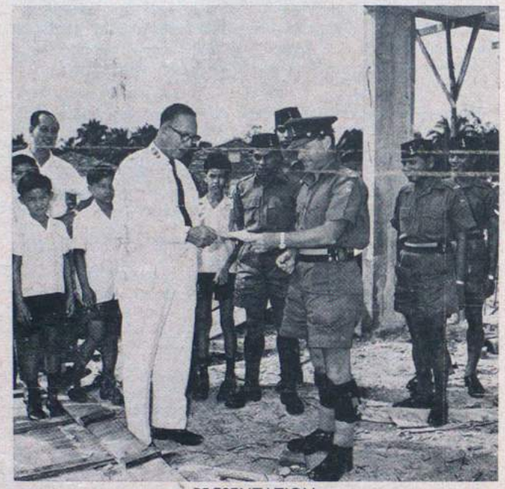
Visitors to the Regiment

On Tuesday, 23rd June, the new C.-in-C. Far East, **Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, K.C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., A.D.C.,** visited the Regiment for the first time. During his brief tour of the Regiment, the C.-in-C. met many of the officers and soldiers who work at Dover Road, and toured Princess Mary and Meiktila Barracks.

We were also visited on Friday, 26th June, by **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.,** C.S.O. Strategic Command. Although he was only with us for a few hours, **Brigadier Proudman** had a good look around the Regiment, and was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Cheque presentations

During the last few days of June, ten cheques were presented to various local charities by members of the Regiment. These cheques were part of the proceeds of the very successful Regimental Funfair, which was held in April. The Commanding Officer started the presentations by handing over a cheque to **Colonel George Engel,** of the Salvation Army Boys' Home, Singapore.



PRESENTATION

The C.O. hands over a cheque to Colonel George Engel of the Salvation Army Boys Home, Singapore

Association Football

Heavy involvement in Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' has meant the postponement of all competitive football during the month of June. The Officer i/c soccer, however, has utilised the period for trying out new players (and systems of play) in friendly matches. We will have a chance of winning the premier league title, having lost only one of eleven games so far played and gaining 16 points out of a possible 22. The deputy Officer i/c soccer, **Staff Sergeant McKenzie,** has successfully completed the FARELF coaching course and the team now has a budding Malcom Allison on the touchline. It is unwise, if you have a delicate constitution, to stand too close to **Major Terry Canaham** and him during a competitive game.

Athletics

The athletics squad are in full training under **W.O.II (C.S.M.I.) Seddon,** A.P.T.C., and as a preliminary to our Regimental meeting took part in an open meeting at R.A.F. Seletar. There appears to be plenty of talent about and we have high hopes of retaining the Singapore Major Units Championship due at the end of July.

Sepak Raga

The Inter-Squadron Sepak Raga League is also flourishing at the moment. Sepak Raga is a Malaysian game and is now played all over South East Asia. It can be likened to volley ball

in which any part of the body except the hands and arms can be used to propel the ball over the net. The Regimental league has been organised by **Captain 'Jimmy' Yahya,** the Malay Captain, and teams consist of U.K. as well as locally enlisted soldiers, who, of course, are experts. H.Q. Squadron 'A' team, under the able leadership of **Lance-Corporal Che Abdullah,** are currently leading the league and tell us they intend to be the eventual winners. No doubt others will have different views.

Despatch from down under

A further report has been received from our man in Australia, **Lieutenant John Young:**

"I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know what was going on in this far-flung corner of the Empire! I have been moving around quite a lot during the past couple of months. I handed over Sigcen Troop, but stayed on as Troop Second-in-Command, after the exercise. At the moment I am filling the role of Second-in-Command 111 Signal Squadron, as the previous incumbent disappeared on a midnight 'flit' to South Vietnam.

'One of the tasks I did have given to me was to organise the communications at the 5th World Surf Championships at Bells Beach. It started with the usual 'have you ever seen surfing—no?—good—you'r em!'—but it proved to be a most enjoyable fortnight. I saw a good deal of surfing, to say nothing of the more shapely surfers! The 'Diggers' of course had a good time, being invited to all the official functions, and borrowing competitors' surf boards to have a go themselves. We existed on free Schweppes (the sponsors) and free doughnuts—we pulled the doughnut man's bogged car out with our Rover!

For once, our efforts were appreciated, because apart from write-ups and mentions in Press and on radio, we also received a letter from the Australian Army Minister passing on thanks from the organisers."

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

50th Anniversary Celebrations

WHILST some of the events held in Singapore have been on a Corps basis, by combining with other units of 5 Signal Group, the Regiment marked this special occasion by functions in RAF, **Changi.**

All Ranks' Games Night

Prompted by the offer of some financial assistance from Corps funds, an All Ranks' Games Night was organised by a committee headed by **Major John Harry** and the R.S.M. Teams were entered from the Seniors (Officers, Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants), the Sergeants, the Corporals, and the Lance-Corporals and Signalmen.

Keen competition was evident as battle was joined in darts, cribbage, bar skittles, curling (a modified shove ha'penny, using weights and a hockey stick), crazy golf, dominoes and billiards. Drinks were available at half-price and a free buffet was provided, consisting of both European and Asian dishes. The eventual main trophy winners were the Seniors, and individual silver-plated tankards were presented to the winners of the seven separate games. Highlight of the evening was a floodlit demonstration match of Sepak Raga, between the Regimental Champions, Changi Troop, against a team selected from the rest. A highly entertaining and skilful game it turned out to be, with Changi Troop emerging as the winners.

Muslim Mosque Parade

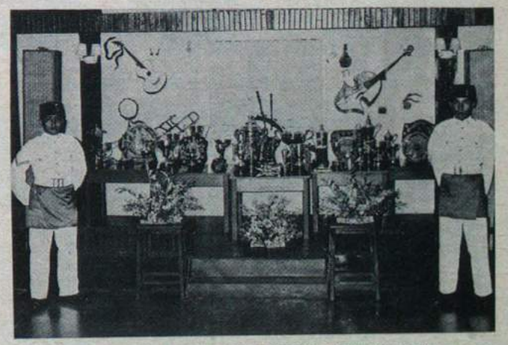
The L.E.P. Muslim community wished to associate themselves with the anniversary in the same manner as the rest of the Regiment, so the normal Friday Mosque Prayers were adapted to include a Special Act of Rededication and the Corps Collect. This was preceded by a very smart parade of the Changi-based LEP under command of **Captain Wan Jalil bin Ahmad, M.B.E.,** and **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Zainul Abeedin bin Ariffin.** The Commanding Officer inspected the parade and the contingent then marched past on their way to the Mosque. A similar and smaller parade was held at the Mosque at Tengah.

CELEBRATING THE CORPS 50th BIRTHDAY—SINGAPORE STYLE

Many special functions were organised by 19th Signal Regiment in celebration of the Corps 50th birthday An All Ranks Games Night provided very keen competition—drinks were at half-price and there was a free buffet. In the photo the Senior Darts Team in action with F. of S. Willis about to throw the winning dart. Silver plated tankards as prizes, were the target

Regimental Sunday

This took the form of church services, which included Special Acts of Rededication at the three churches on R.A.F. Changi. The principal service was held at St. George's, where the music was provided by the Band of the Far East Air Force, under the direction of **Flight-Lieutenant N. Warnes, M.B.E.** The Regiment was honoured by the presence of several R.A.F. Senior Officers, among whom were the Commander, Far East Air Force, **Air Marshal Sir Neil and Lady Wheeler,** the Command Electrical Engineer, **Group Captain** and **Mrs. J. T.**



AN IMPOSING DISPLAY OF REGIMENTAL SILVER . . .

After the service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, 19th Signal Regiment held a reception in the Senior Ranks Club at which 120 members of the Regiment and their wives attended. Here the Regimental silver tastefully decorated with flowers was on view — a very imposing display indeed and well guarded by Lance-Corporal Harun and Signalman Andin in ceremonial uniform

Scanlon, and the Station Commander, R.A.F. Changi, **Group Captain** and **Mrs. A. D. A. Honley.**

The Commanding Officer presented to the Royal Air Force a specially-inscribed Regimental plaque commemorating the long association of the Regiment with the Far East Air Force. At the end of 1971 this will be placed in the church at RAF Cranwell.

After the services, a Regimental reception was held for the guests and some 120 members of the Regiment and their wives in the Senior Ranks' Club. This had been tastefully decorated with flowers and the Regimental silver was laid out on display, flanked by two L.E.P. soldiers in ceremonial uniform.

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 43

Move

FOR some time now, the Regimental Headquarters has been going to move from Laarbruch to Wildenrath. For months, a great deal of pre-planning has been carried out in conjunction with our R.A.F. and M.P.B.W. colleagues, and within the Regiment, much preparation has been made.

The great day arrived, and the move started with the creation of a mini R.H.Q. at Wildenrath. There is nothing mini about **Staff Sergeant George,** who runs it and he is convinced that, at the moment, he is running the Regiment with the aid of R.H.Q. Whatever the truth may be, there can be no doubt that 'Mini R.H.Q.' is busy and is rapidly taking over more and more of the daily tasks.

Lance-Corporal Anacoura's typing is improving rapidly with the amount of practice he is getting.

The new O.C. H.Q. Squadron arrived and went direct to Wildenrath. For some time he was on his own, but he is a happier man now and is busy commanding **W.O.II (S.S.M.) May** and **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Scott,** both of whom are busy commanding a handful of men.

The Q.M. was forecast as moving at the end of this year, but his empire is so big that work cannot begin on his block until mid-1971, due to lack of finance.

The move is progressing quietly but quite quickly. It is very pleasing to find that the availability of married quarters is much better than anticipated and, as a result, the move is proceeding smoothly and with the minimum of difficulties for our families.

The Wildenrath element is particularly busy as, not only are they involved in the Regimental move, but they are also concerned in the R.A.F. (Germany) Open Day and the running of the Morrison Cup. The Open Day took place on 5th July and was well worth seeing.

Arrivals and departures

We wish to say welcome to the following:

Major B. M. Ashcroft (O.C. H.Q. Squadron); **Major L. F. Knight** (T.O.T.); **Captain C. T. A. Hughes** (O.C. 'K' Airfield Signal Troop); **W.O.II E. J. B. May** (S.S.M., H.Q. Squadron); **Sergeant M. F. P. Little** (Clerk Tech.).

We say farewell to **Major P. H. Bolton** and **Sergeant S. A. Wayling.**

SPORTS

Athletics

The athletics camp is in full training for its bid for the Army Championships at the end of July. The Rhine Area Championships were won in very convincing style, the team winning eleven of the fourteen events, all in new records.

There was a spectacular unit effort in the B.A.O.R. Individual, where 26 of the team were entered, obtaining 24 places in the first six. Outstanding performances were by **Corporal Jeff Fenge** (1st hurdles and pole vault); **Corporal Mick Gue** (1st, 800 and 1,500 metres); **Corporal George Holden** (2nd, 5,000 and 10,000 metres); **Lieutenant John Reed** (2nd in discus); **Lance-Corporal Brian Turner** (2nd in pole vault); **Lieutenant Rodney Bransfield** (3rd in pole vault); **Corporal Mac Macmillan** (3rd in 1,500 and 5,000 metres); **Lance-Corporal Phil Drummond** (3rd in high jump).

Congratulations to **Corporal Jeff Fenge** on winning the Army pole vault (14ft. 3in.) and 110 metres hurdles (15.3) in new records and being selected for the Army Team in the Inter-Services' Championships. He gained even greater honours last week when he won the Southern Counties pole vault title.

Tug-of-war

Very quietly, the tug-of-war team is having its best-ever season, and it remains unbeaten to date—in fact, it has not even lost a pull. Alas, injuries are making the task of winning the B.A.O.R. Cup difficult, but this is a team not to be written off until the last pull. The team, chosen almost entirely from 'L' Troop, at Laarbruch, is still sublimely confident of their ability to win the B.A.O.R. and then the Army Championships, thus qualifying to pull against themselves in the Inter-Service Champions, as they are already R.A.F. Champions. We promise readers of THE WIRE a photograph next month, though the Editor may not pass it without an X Certificate .

Tennis

Our tennis stars were most successful in the B.A.O.R. Championships—**Captain Bob Siderfin** being one of the winning pair in both the men's and mixed doubles, and both he and **Signalman Geoff Ruffer** reached the semi-finals of the singles before succumbing to two players with county experience.

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

Anniversary

IN company with the rest of the Corps, the Regiment has been proudly celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Corps.

The Corporals' Mess held a very successful Ball which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, although certain Corporals were heard to observe that the music played by the band (Dixeland Jazz) was so old that even the Squadron Commanders appreciated it.

The W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess held their Summer Ball on 6th June, inviting the Commanding Officer and Officers to attend. The evening was an immense success, thanks to the efforts of the P.M.C., **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bill Forrest** and his merry band of 'volunteers' and our master chef, **Staff Sergeant Joe Gomm,** who produced a most enjoyable buffet.

The Officers' Mess indulged in a Shipwreck Party which was most ably stage-managed by the P.M.C. and his assistants and featured various exotic creatures to enliven the scene — goldfish, terrapin, parrot, schoolteachers, to name but a few.

Exercise 'Summer sales'

In a more serious vein, the Regiment has been engaged in the usual plethora of exercises, culminating in Summer Sales' which, while giving excellent practice for our communications also managed to be the only 'dry foot' exercise in the last year.

Sport

On 27th June, the Sergeants' Mess football team took to the field against the local German 'Altmannen' teams in a World Cup type knock-out competition. It was a great success with the team taking third place after a hot day of gruelling football. The star scorer, **Sergeant Tony McDonald,** refused to score a goal unless he was given the 'kiss and cuddle' treatment given to goal-scorers. One will never know that we may have won but for vanity!

Arrivals and departures

It is sad to record the departure of **R.S.M. Declancy** from the Regiment to the warmer climes of Catterick. His imposing figure in 'manoeuver mantel and grossen klumpen' will be missed by the Regiment on exercise. His driver may now also get some sleep other than leaning on the wheel of his vehicle. On 9th June, the W.Os and Sergeants and their ladies dined out **W.O.I (R.S.M.)** and **Mrs. Pat Declancy.** The evening was presided over by **W.O.I (F. of S.) Reg Staniford.** who presented **W.O.I** and**Mrs. Declancy** with a silver punchbowl. Following a dance, they were escorted to their 'chariot' (a line-laying vehicle) to convey them home.

It fell to the Regimental Wives' Club to present **Mr. Declancy** on his departure with the most unusual tribute — a female Jimmy! (or should it be Jim-ima or Jim-mette) made of glass. No home should be without one.

Our best wishes go with **R.S.M.** and **Mrs. Declancy** in their new post.

We welcome in his place **W.O.I. (R.S.M.) McGilvray** and trust that his stay with us will be a pleasant one.

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24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

The Garrison Combat Race

THE combat race took place on Saturday, 30th May. Early speculation suggested that while perhaps more hope than confidence lay behind the officers' team, wherever they finished, the Sergeants would not be far behind. 2 Squadron, however, seemed to be trained to the minute, and unless 'nobbled,' they appeared to have a favourite's chance.

As the teams started at ten-minute intervals, the serious business of race watching began for those clever enough to have avoided actually taking part. And a thoroughly enjoyable morning's sport they must have had.

The first obstacles presented few difficulties for the teams—or amusement for the spectators—though the officers did show just how difficult it can be to take a casualty over a 14ft. wall, and provided an object lesson in how not to tackle the obstacle.

After the wall, the course seemed to become increasingly difficult, no doubt at least in part due to the sadly-aching muscles protesting in vain at their misuse.

Yet at least the movement under fire provided some refreshment, for the movement, as one might expect, necessitated a crawl of some considerable length along a noisome stream. In its depth a boot, a single boot, perhaps all that remained of someone who passed that way in a previous race—an eloquent epitaph and a moving salute to the durability of the ordinary Army boot!

Bedecked and bedraggled, the teams sought comfort in the next test of wet and weary limbs. By now the bell was beginning to toll, but at least the end was almost in sight. Not, though, before another visit to the waters, and the transportation of jerrycans along a log, demanding the balance of a trapese artist, but preferably the mind of a newt.

Finally, the teams, a little older, a lot wiser, but much, much slower, reached journey's end . . . having attempted to resuscitate the singularly unattractive and unco-operative dummy in the final test.

So the combat race is over for another year, and one is left thinking that next year May is the time for leave!

In Brief

Against all the odds (and better players!) 1 Squadron summarily dismissed 3 Squadron from the Regimental Tennis Tournament, with **Lieutenant Peter Thompson's** cunning high trajectory serve wreaking havoc. **Sergeant Millar** adds two more golf trophies to his growing hoard.

The Regimental Cricket XI are off to a fine start, with a win over 8th Signal Regiment and summer is really with us, as Catterick undergoes drought conditions!

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

Communications exercise

THE Regiment deployed for Exercise 'Front Centre' on 20th May. We were joined for the exercise by personnel of 35th (S.M.) Signal Regiment (V), who came to Germany for their annual camp. The exercise gave us our first real chance to try out a new communications system with staff participation. The inevitable minor problems occurred, but in general, the new system worked very well, coping with traffic level approaching 4,000 telegraph transmissions daily without significant delays.

Morale rose visibly in the Tape Relay Centre, with the arrival of volunteer W.R.A.C. operators from 35th Regiment. They were very keen to learn and worked hard throughout the exercise; in particular, the girls with U.K. G.P.O. experience were invaluable additions to our switchboard staff, their dulcet tones promoting a constant stream of visitors to the switching centre 'just to have a look round'!

The exercise ended on 27th May, and our Volunteer friends returned to U.K. on the 29th and 30th. A large party from the Regiment departed on Exercise 'Fransud' (described elsewhere) and small detachments were involved in 'Summer Sales' and 'Dominate.' Meanwhile, those still in barracks were busy preparing for a major communications exercise, involving the whole Regiment, which started on 18th June.

We deployed to locations in the Eifel for the first time, and enjoyed glorious weather and beautiful surroundings for nine days. The communications worked well.

In the CP, officer training took place regularly during quiet periods. Strategy and mathematics were the theme of these periods, and with a training aid in the form of a pack of dominoes (up to and including a double nine) many invaluable lessons were learned.

The exercise ended on 26th June and we now face a busy period of vehicle installations in preparation for the autumn training season.

Why did Whydell dally up a tree?

A Yeoman's eye view of the Nordeifel Naturpark is best taken from the top of a tree. Why from the top of a tree, you might ask? A good question!

During 'Sigex,' one nice evening, I decided to walk around the camp perimeter. On one side of the track was a dense forest, on the other side, a few park benches and an occasional tree. I stopped, and just caught a glimpse of a deer bounding off down the valley and out of sight. I stopped again, listened, and heard a rustling in the bushes. Another young deer, I thought? I listened again. Funny! Do deer trot so quickly? Suddenly my 'deer' let out a G-R-U-N-T; I froze. On the second G-R-U-N-T, I leapt into the air, heading for the nearest tree. Feeling like Felix the cat, climbing a greasy pole, I made my way to safety on a high bough. Out of the dense forest trotted a sow boar and two piglets. They sniffed the trunk of my tree and quickly made off again. (Obviously, they did not like the scent of a Yeoman).

I sat on the bough for half-an-hour before I dared to climb down. Then I tip-toed the first 50 metres and sprinted the rest back to camp.

I have given up the idea of becoming a naturalist now, unless our next location is near a nature camp, that is, the type that always has a high wall round it, and only human animals can enter.

Vacation at Vogelsang

Those readers who have visited the place will agree, I am sure, that on arriving at the camp, the first impression is one of space and somewhat forbidding buildings. Having read the useful 'Notes' on the place, the description of the living accommodation as being 'adequate and soldier-proof' tends to add to the general air of apprehension. This soon disappears when the facilities are visited and the first morning range conference reveals that the Belgian permanent staff do NOT allow language barriers to stand in the way of co-operation. It was thus that an *ad hoc* Squadron of three Troops, plus the athletics team, arrived on 28th June and came under command of 15/19 Hussars. The next three days are but a painful memory as the many steps were ascended and descended and bodies attuned themselves to the environment—not the least the very fresh air.

Whilst the soldiering troops shot off their classification, confirmed their swimming ability, and tried out the assault course, the athletes trained under the benevolent (I'm sure that should be malevolent!) eyes of **Captain Jim Chater** and **Lieutenant Robbie Burns.** To hear Signalman Towers crying out for the whip in lieu of circuit training made for a welcome pause on my 607th step of the day!

Whereas it was unfortunate that we were, owing to our enforced late arrival, unable to join in all the activities planned by the 15th/19th Hussars, they did make available Chieftain tanks for us to view, night-driving aids, which we used, and sufficient vacancies on the battle inoculation course. The latter being not so much a test of nerves as of endurance, and for 48 hours the mere mention of 'leopard crawl' was sufficient to freeze expressions to a manical grin and boded evil for the utterer!

Having completed most of our tasks, the Hussars departed and we were able to get out on the training areas and put into practice all those necessary lessons of basic soldiering. I wondered just how **Lance-Corporal Britton,** our avid canoeist, really felt, as he launched himself into the assault and found himself up to the gunwales in his second element? Or why **W.O.s Jones** and **Howes** took so long to reach the RV?

The arrival of **Majors Coates** and **Matthews** provided for a realistic night exercise, with the former acting as DS and the latter as officer-in-charge enemy.

On our last evening, we entertained the officers and seniors from R.M.A., Sandhurst. Judging from the number of champagne bottles about next morning, quite a few people had discovered one of the benefits of the Belgian CMC (NAAFI)!

And so 'Franfist, 1970' came and went.

Exercise 'Fransud'

As all ex-Franciscans will know, there is an annual migration to the south of Germany, where some one hundred all ranks of 28th Signal Regiment spend a pleasant two weeks enjoying a 'change of air' in the Black Forest. As in previous years, the exercise base camp was set up near the village of Schluchsee; the aim of the exercise (in the words of the administrative instruction) was "to train and test junior ranks in the execution of minor command and control, whilst working in an unfamiliar environment.

Schluchsee is situated on the side of the largest lake in the Black Forest, and is a popular location for holidays. The extensive forests, which extend from the eastern edge of the lake to beyond the hills which encircle it, provide an ideal setting for hiking and walking in the picturesque valleys of the Upper Black Forest. The lake, covering some 1,250 acres, provides good facilities for a variety of water sports, including canoeing, sailing, swimming and fishing. Incidentally, this is an ideal touring centre for visits to Lake Constance and Switzerland, and there are several good camping sites in the vicinity of the lake.

FRANSUD

The outstation camp at Bondorf (with local children investigating the possibility of an issue of compo sweets)

Major Frank Philp was officer-in-charge of the exercise, assisted by **Major Vic Beckhurst, M.C.,** R.A.P.C. (he knows this area and its facilities well!), who was officer-in-chagre training. Mountain outstation camps were established in the vicinity of St. Blasien, Bondorf and Neustadt; with the assistance of the respective Oberforstrats (forest administrators) ideal camping sites were provided for our exclusive use. The members of the Regiment were organised into small patrols of some seven or eight soldiers, and were led by junior N.C.O.s. The training programme provided for day marches between outstation camps, where patrols spent the night. In addition, a canoe site under the direction of **Lieutenant Peter Meaning** (and with the assistance of **Sergeant Richards** and **Lance-Corporal Britton**) was established on the lakeside at Schluchsee. Every soldier who was able to swim completed a two-day course, culminating in a five-hour expedition around the lake. Those soldiers who were unable to swim were given rock climbing instruction under the control of **Staff Sergeant Shaw,** and many for the first time experienced the thrill (or terror) of climbing sheer rock! In addition we were lucky in taking delivery just prior to the exercise of a fibreglass yacht (christened the 'Franciscan,' of course). **Lieutenant J. C. Wollaston,** who was admiral of this one-boat fleet, daily instructed soldiers in the arts and thrills (and the hard work) of sailing. In this way many soldiers were introduced to sailing for the first time.

The weather throughout the exercise was perfect. Our relations with the Burgomaster of Schluchsee were extremely cordial, as were our relations with the other officials with whom we came in contact (including the local Police Sergeant!). In fact we were all made to feel very welcome and many of us (not least the author of these notes) look forward to a return visit in 1971.

Footnote

We have just received our copies of the 50th Anniversary WIRE. We wonder at the coincidence! 24th Regiment appear to have had an opening ball in their Sergeants' Mess on the day our Sergeants' Mess opened, and isn't it odd how all the people at their ball have namesakes here. (These little diversions are put into THE WIRE to keep everyone on their toes!—Editor).

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Arrivals and departures

RECENTLY we have had a great many changes in personalities within the Regiment. After serving for three years in Blandford we sadly record the departure of **R.S.M. Tom Burke** who leaves us for 227 Signal Squadron. We wish **R.S.M. and Mrs. Burke** good fortune and every happiness during their tour in Holland, and extend congratulations to **R.S.M. Jennings** who has now joined us for his new appointment on promotion.

Lieutenants Chris Grant, Chris Johnson and **Derek McLean** joined us earlier in the summer—just in time to become fully engaged in the spate of camps, exercises, shooting competitions, Corps anniversary celebrations, social and sporting events of May, June and July. **Lieutenant Jack Fiskell** returned from Cyprus to claim his share of these activities as we said farewell to **Lieutenant John Thewlis** for his tour with 644 Signal Troop.

We also have a number of changes in 4 Squadron with **Major Tom Blashill** and **Captain Eddy Hampson** taking over from **Major Maurice Pack-Davison** and **Captain George Hayes.** The Ship Signal Troops are making their changes too; **Captain Andrew Briggs** has departed with 661 Signal Troop aboard H.M.S. *Intrepid* and will be followed in August by **Lieutenant Jeremy Miller** from 3 Squadron. **Captain Rollo Rumford** called in very briefly to see us following the return of H.M.S. *Fearless* and we look forward to having 621 Signal Troop when they complete their leave and rejoin us for their training in the autumn. Finally, we shall round off the summer by saying farewell to **Captain Des Duncan** who has accomplished prodigious feats of dexterity at the numbers game in the Mounting Centre; **Captain Don Herring** from T.M. Workshops; **Captain Johnathan Cox** who hands over command of 644 Signal Troop, and **Lieutenant Jane Dyer** who will be sadly missed by the hockey and shooting team. Normal short tour reinforcements to Cyprus, Anguilla, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, FARELF and occasionally B.A.O.R. continue to be made!

Skill At Arms

The success of the Regimental shooting continues unabated and as we record the results of the Royal Signals Stratco/Southco and Corps meeting we hopefully await the results from Bisley. 1 Squadron won the Roupell and Whitehead trophies in the Stratco/Southco meeting with 3 and H.Q. Squadron also taking leading places. 3 Squadron won the Roberts trophy, and in Champion Team competition 1, 3 and H.Q. Squadron were second, third and fifth respectively. The Regiment took the first six places in the overall individual competition in the order of **Lieutenant McLean, Corporal Purkiss, Corporal Jaques, Major Cowsill** and **Signalman Harris** (tied), **Lance-Corporals Rennoldson** and **Kingham** (tied). **Signalman Locke** won the young soldiers' individual LMG event.

The results of the Royal Signals meeting held at Bulford during which the Regimental team beat representative teams

from R.A., R.E., R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. in an SLR competition were as follows:

Champion Major Unit team, 30th Regiment; Best Royal Signals Stratco team, 30th Regiment; SLR Matches 1 (a) (b) (c), winners; SMG Match 27, runners-up.

Individual results:

Match 1 (b) (SLR) Best Class A, **Lance-Corporal Kingham;** Best Class B, **Signalman Locke.** Match 1 (c) (SLR) Best Class B, **Corporal Jaques.** Match 3 (SLR) Best Class B, **Corporal Jaques.** Match 4 (SMG) Winner (Class A), **Lance-Corporal Kingham;** Best Class B, **Corporal Jaques.** Match 5 (Target Rifle) third, **Lieutenant D. McLean,** Royal Signals. Match 6 (Pistol) second, **Lieutenant D. McLean;** third, **Signalman Locke.** Champion Shot Class B, **Corporal Jaques;** runner-up, **Lance-Corporal Hindle.** Best W.R.A.C. Pistol Shot, **Lieutenant J. Dyer.**

Exercises/Activities

There is no lack of variety this season. O.C. 1 Squadron had his introduction to H.Q. 2 Infantry Brigade with a 10-day exercise in Cyprus for radio detachments of his Squadron. **Yeoman Bland** took D11 detachments to Scotland for 13 Signal Group Exercise 'Red Shoes.' **Corporal Adcock** and his detachment, also from 1 Squadron, renewed their acquaintances aboard the L.S.L. *Sir Geraint* for Exercise 'Soleil' off the south coast and are at present working with Royal Marines on Exercise 'Love Song' aboard *Sir Tristram* off the coast of Holland. **Captain Hampson** took a composite detachment to London for a 10-day CPX in the M.O.D. 2 Squadron linemen have been establishing their role with 14th Regiment laying lines with the E21 detachments on exercise near Edinburgh and Weymouth. 3 Squadron have also departed for Edinburgh to provide additional communications for the Commonwealth Games. They recently enjoyed a fortnight on the English riviera providing safety radio nets for the Poole Bay Olympic Association and the World Sailing Championship. Most of the detachments spent 14 days afloat on luxurious motor yachts in glorious sunshine whilst those ashore apart from providing the communications assisted the regatta organisers to a considerable extent with all the numerous activities and recording that takes place at an international regatta. Our role as communicators is unique, but we have found time to produce the butt parties for the Corps shooting at Bulford, ushers for Salisbury Cathedral, and for the majority to carry out their P.E. test by way of a camp followed by an early morning 10-mile march across the fields of Dorset.

Regimental Camp – Alderney

We are grateful to 1 Signal Group for making our bid for training in Alderney a reality and securing for us an L.C.T. for two sailings in May. H.M.V. *Aachen* embarked ninety all ranks and nine vehicles at Marchwood, making two crossings of the Channel during the first weekend of May. The first party with the vehicles were beached at Bray Bay in Alderney and the second were disembarked by assault boat whilst the L.C.T. stood off in Bray Harbour. Both landings were successfully accomplished thereby completing a very useful exercise in movement by sea.

The detachment, under the command of the Second-in-Command, **Major B. O. Haw,** were accommodated in Fort Tourgis, most of which are derelict buildings. The administration of the camp was well attended to by **Major Henry Scott, S.S.M. Baigent, W.O.II Goodair** and **Staff Sergeant Tanner. Corporal Watson** worked for many hours to run a successful canteen which provided film shows and other comforts during the indifferent foggy weather which enveloped the island for much of the visit.

The technicians of H.Q. Squadron, under the guidance of the T.O.T. **Captain Don Herring** and **Sergeant Humphries,** quickly set to and improved the lighting. During the three weeks the detachment resurfaced the fort compound with fifty tons of laterite and gravel supplied by the island authorities. Volunteers were readily forthcoming for **Lieutenant Chris Grant** to improve the 680 feet of steps down the cliffs at Telegraph Bay whilst **Lieutenant Dennis Marshall** and another group showed great proficiency at erecting safety fences on the nearby cliff tops.

Lieutenant Peter Whitehead and **Sergeant Nurse** successfully organised an M.P.C. Course.

Later in the month the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose, Major Gerry Boast,** and a crew of three from the regiment, sailed in *Catalyst*, a 25 foot yacht from Poole to join the detachment. The Group Commander, **Colonel E. J. Winn,** paid a flying visit during which he inspected the M.P.C. course and saw the radio detachments of 1 Squadron. These detachments maintained continuous radio contact for three weeks with Blandford and carried out training with all the sets they use on operations.

During our stay the detachment had made excellent relations with the local population and successfully attended to all matters in connection with 'hearts and minds.' A film show for the local school was a huge success. On the final evening before the return voyage the islanders ran a dance and the officers entertained the islanders to a cocktail party, both occasions were greatly enjoyed by all.

6th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (206), Barnard Castle

Summer camp

THE Brigade commitment on Exercise 'Summer Sales' was reduced this year and only a small staff cell was required. As a result the usual pilgrimage of the Squadron to B.A.O.R. was cancelled. The grins had just started to appear on the soldiers' faces when they were wiped away by the news that we were going to summer camp instead for the period 8th-19th June. The aim of the training was to improve the battle efficiency of each individual soldier and the Squadron was reorganised on the lines of an Infantry Company. The training took place in two separate camps. The first week was spent at Whitburn Camp, just north of Sunderland and the second week on Otterburn training area.

For readers who have never been to Whitburn, it is a small compact T. and A.V.R. camp on the very edge of the coastline just north of Whitburn itself with accommodation for a Squadron. There are four ranges immediately adjacent to the living accommodation and one can literally step from the billet door onto the 600 yard firing point. There were no NAAFI facilities in the camp but **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Mike Enright's** bun and beer stall soon went into operation. **Corporal Bob Evans** and **Lance-Corporal Gerry Mullen,** although not the most attractive of NAAFI girls, were a welcome sight whenever their van arrived during the training.

During this first week we concentrated mainly on L.M.G., S.L.R. and S.M.G. classification and B.E. tests. In the evenings we held our own mini World Cup soccer competition in which the four platoons, the administrative platoon and a combined Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants team took part. The records show that 2 Platoon beat 3 Platoon in the final. The weather was glorious throughout although two hours shooting were lost through early morning sea mist and 116 pairs of aching feet which completed the B.E. test course probably wished that it had been cooler on that particular day. It was apparent, during this week, that those soldiers who had completed the pre-camp training of weapon training and various route marches had the edge over those who had not. Pre-training for the Otterburn period was also completed here which included 3.5 inch rocket launcher Toets and map reading instruction. This first week of training ended with a visit from 660 Army Aviation Squadron who spent most of the final day with us whilst we practised helicopter handling. Most of the Squadron flew round the lighthouse that had kept us awake on the misty nights.

The move to Otterburn was, to say the least, interesting. The main problem was that the maps covering the route from Whitburn bore little resemblance to the actual ground. It would seem that a new motorway was planned and built without reference to the Director of Survey. At least this was the excuse of every packet commander. It is believed that the Second-in-Command, **Captain Cullen,** held the record of driving through Durham city (not on the route) three times. In fairness it should be added that all of the other packets went through there at least once and **Foreman Limb** and **R.S.M. Cage** exchanged greetings as they passed each other on the unidentified motorway travelling in opposite directions.

Otterburn provided a complete change. Here the Squadron quickly settled down and in the following week 23 soldiers fired the 3.5 inch rocket launcher (practice), 35 the energa grenade (live) and 102 completed a course on one of the battle simulation ranges. Our new administrative officer, **Captain Rickards,** 1st Royal Irish, assisted by **Colour Sergeant Gay,** took great delight in giving a demonstration of the use of plastic explosives. He soon produced all sorts of bombs and grenades made out of anything that came to hand, with obvious relish. Bogsiders look out! East platoon also took their turn to complete a day and night navigation exercises which were organised by **Captain Horler.** He would appear out of the hills with his clan of Corporals every day or so to replenish and then disappear again.

The camp period was an unqualified success. Not only was the aim achieved but everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We hope to have another concentrated period of weapon training and range work in the autumn to follow up what has already been achieved.

Visit by G.O.C. 2 Division

On Tuesday, 30th June, the G.O.C. 2 Division, **Major General H. R. S. Pain, M.C., A.D.C.,** revisited the Squadron training in the local area. The communications element of the Brigade H.Q. has just been established when the General arrived to meet and talk with the men present. He was interested in hearing about the problems of training the Squadron in the U.K. and seemed satisfied with what we were trying to achieve with the limited facilities available.

Cricket

The Squadron team have now reached the final of the Northern Command cricket competition, having defeated the King's Division Depot at Strensall in the semi-final. The final is a Corps affair against the A.A.C. Harrogate and the game is to be played at Catterick on 16th July.

8th Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron, Londonderry

Fully committed—one would say

OPERATIONALLY we are kept amused, and 'A' Troop, commanded by **Lieutenant Andrew Whiddett,** have been fully committed during this period. They must be the smallest 'A' Troop in existence, having only 19 all ranks and having the responsibility for providing all Brigade radio communications, 'forward and backwards.' The Commander's Rover Group, under the critical eye of the R.S.M., **W.O.I Meyer,** commanded by **Corporal Ron Griffiths,** are by far the busiest. The mobile Pye relay, 'Mobile X-ray' is a close second, commanded by **Corporal Pete Emmerson.**

'M' Troop, commanded by the Foreman, **W.O.II John Callow,** our last surviving emergency tour member, who has 14 days to go, have their backs to the wall. **Corporal Dave Roberts,** our only Tech. T.E., took it upon himself to retire to hospital, leaving the Foreman with lots of gremlin-infested equipment to play with. **Corporal Roberts** has since returned. **Corporal Alan Hart,** Tech. R., now has to play squash with the O.C., as the Foreman is rather busy.

G.O.C.'s Commendation

On 5th June, **Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Freeland, K.C.B., D.S.O.,** visited us again to present **Corporal Thompson,** R.A.O.C., with a G.O.C.'s commendation. **Corporal Thompson** had been instrumental in saving two children from a burning house and showing disregard for his own safety by returning to the house and with the help of a civilian, entered the bedroom to bring a third child to safety.

The D. & E. Platoon, under **Sergeant John Scott,** R.P.C., is another over-pressed body of men. Besides their normal duties of defending the rebroadcast sites, and at times the main bridge in and out of the City of Londonderry, they have managed to find the time to help a local inhabitant, **Mr. R.** Harvey, who is an old age pensioner, by carrying out some

THE SEAT OF POWER—SQUADRON H.Q.

Left to right: W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) P. Goldsmith, Signalman J. Reeves, Sergeant A. Dainty, Signalman R. McKerron, Lance-Corporal R. Davidson, Staff-Sergeant (O.R.S.Q.M.S.) C. Webb

Front row, left to right: Captain L. G. Barratt R.T.R., Captain J. V. Fielding, Major M. F. H. Colman, W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. Meyer, Captain (Q.M.) W. E. Howley

much-needed repairs to his bungalow. The labour force, commanded by **Corporal Bloor,** R.P.C., consisted of **Privates Steele, Purvis** and **Saunders.** They re-slated the roof of the bungalow and repaired a large area of the ceiling. The R.S.M. and the B.O.W.O., **W.O.I Ian Kemp,** co-ordinated the project.

Twenty-four different cap badges

Sergeant Dainty, our sole R.A.P.C. representative, is currently pounding his fevered brow about the addition of the countless 'odds and sods' that come and go on 'flap tours.' The latest lot are a bath unit. There are, or were, at the last count, at 14.30 hours, 26 different Corps Regiments on Brigade strength for pay purposes, which makes for a colourful pay parade. Some of them only emerge into daylight for this one high-spot in their vacation, all pale and blinking in the Admin. Officer's monster 200-watt glare. The pay office is currently right next to the R.S.M.'s office, pay queries being conducted in whispers.

In the depths of the world of 'Q'

The Quartermaster's Department once again is on the move, for the fourth time—only about 400 yards, nevertheless, just as much a problem as the longer moves. The Q.M., **Captain Howley,** looks forward (with horror) to moving his department again in December, and threatens not to make a career of the Army (after 32 years) if he has to move once more.

The R.Q.M.S., **W.O.II Peter Goldsmith** is going greyer every day. The C.Q.M.S.—some of you who have completed the All Arms Drill Course may know him—**Colour Sergeant McHenry,** Irish Guards, has threatened to return to Pirbright if things don't look up. **Sergeant Hicks** is lost amongst his ledgers and his hair is getting thinner, wondering which Battalion is going to sign for what equipment on which day. **Corporal Wignall,** R.C.T., who recently got married, can be found in amongst a screen of smoke from the everlasting cigarettes he smokes. **Lance-Corporals Egmore** and **Kitson** gaze at one another in the technical store, and **Signalman Stevenson** works amid the expendable stores. Finally, **Lance-Corporal Raynes,** R.C.T., who is employed in the Armoury. He guards the weapons as if they were his own, saying "If you have not seen the Q.M., you can't have one."

Last but certainly not least

Last of all, and not to be forgotten, the Squadron Headquarters Staff. The Chief Clerk, **Staff Sergeant Cliff Webb,** has his doubts about the establishment, he complains of administering more attached personnel than established personnel. **Corporal Harry Johnson,** who has just successfully

completed his MPT Class 1 and his Class 1 trade, is due back shortly. We managed to borrow from 233 Signal Squadron **Signalman Jim Reeves,** who has settled in well and coped with the job in hand admirably, although the odd mutter from behind the typewriter can be heard, for example, "I can't wait to get back to Lisburn." **Lance-Corporal Bob Davidson,** who has had to fill the gap whilst the Chief Clerk has been away, is soaked in power and delegates responsibilities to our other clerk, **Signalman Mac McKerron.**

24 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (210) Plymouth

Plymouth Army Week

As part of Mayflower '70 celebrations, a nightly tattoo was staged in the Royal Citadel from 22nd-27th June. As planning progressed, so did the scope of the tattoo. Some 1,500 soldiers took part. The White Helmets were there and thrilled 5,000 spectators each evening; we were very proud of them.

The Squadron was very much involved behind the scenes, but our outward contribution was the provision of the nightly quarter guard. In fact we had two guards taking alternate duties. Their turnout and drill drew many a complimentary remark and must have satisfied their respective guard commanders, **Sergeants Ken Purnell** and **Ralph Finch.**

'B' and 'Q' Troops ran a refreshment stall and managed to swell P.R.I. profits by £100.

Back to Northern Ireland

Timings

011130A Jul — O.C.'s planning conference. Subject under discussion was giving next CPX an airportable flavour.

011131A Jul — Conference interrupted by B.M. O.C. to Brigade H.Q. Informed Squadron off to Belfast.

011600A Jul — Recce Party left Plymouth. By air from St. Mawgan.

020700A Jul — TAC H.Q. left Plymouth. By air from St. Mawgan.

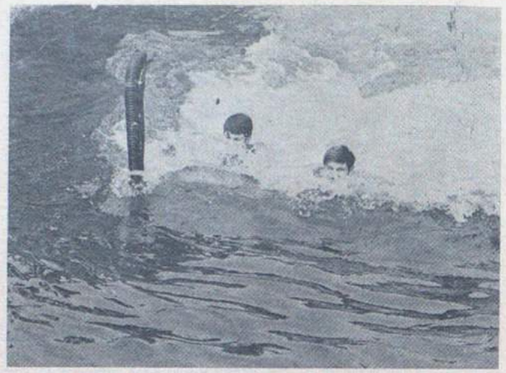
021700A Jul — Recce and Tac Parties complete in location in Belfast.

031500A Jul — Main Party left Plymouth in L.S.L. *Sir Geraint.*

032300A Jul — Skeleton Brigade H.Q. 'in action' directing operations in riots of 3rd/4th July.

041700A Jul — Main Body arrived.

Having left Londonderry in February, we hardly considered the possibility of returning to Northern Ireland. Our commital, therefore, came as a complete surprise. With excellent support from **Lieutenant-Colonel Peter McGilliviray,** at H.Q., Northern Ireland, and a sustained all-night effort from our Linemen, **Lance-Corporal Marco Po'and, Signalmen Georgie Best** and **Lew Greenwood,** all lines and circuits were in by 3rd July. In fact we were not due to become operational before 5th July, but the events of 3rd July in Belfast made it necessary for the incomplete Brigade H.Q. to direct the operations of 1 KOSB, 1 B.W. and 45 Commando, RM in the city that night. For the few Royal Signals on the advance party, this meant a prolonged stint of duty. **Y. of S. John Birkwood, Corporal Jock Davidson** and the adaptable **Signalman Tom Livingstone** did valiant work in the comcen. **Corporal Tom Bowen** became O.C. 'A' Troop, and his radio operators, **Lance-Corporal Phil Martin, Harry Brayley, Signalman Jock Dick** and **Geordie Wilson-Wardle,** manned four nets between them. **Lance-Corporal Chippie Chambers, Signalman John Chambers, Andy Young,** drove their respective staff officers on numerous recces through the streets of Belfast, while **Signalman Scottie Scott** and **Jock Grieg** pioneered the SDS route.



GETTING AQUA-AINTED FOR THE REAL THING
Signalman Gray and Signalman Neal just getting the feel of things in a water tank in preparation for the real thing—the amphibious exercise 'Soleil' in which 24 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron participated

THIS IS NOT THE STORY OF THE BIG 'UN THAT GOT AWAY . . .
. . . its the story of five Corps men who are so keen on this amphibious training that afterwards they go back to the water again —this time fishing. And by their catches they made a success of that too. *Left to right:* Sergeant Brian Humphries, Sergeant Des Ackers, Sergeant Bob Duxberry, W.O.II (F. of S.) George Geldard and W.O.II (Y. of S.) John Birkwood

Arrivals/departures

Captain Richard Hood has taken over as Second-in-Command from **Captain Mike Forge.** The latter is now at H.Q., 16 Parachute Brigade. We wish him good luck in his new appointment and thank him for his untiring efforts on our behalf.

R.S.M. Fred Common replaces **R.S.M. John Ient,** leaving us on commissioning. The latter showed considerable restraint when invited to accompany us to Belfast to see us in. Before he returned to Plymouth he was 'toasted' in both Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. He left for the docks in the Brigade Commander's staff car. In accordance with current orders concerning suspicious characters, he was stopped and searched at the gate by our Defence Platoon.

F. of S. George Geldard is also leaving us. We shall miss his quiet and reassuring presence. The noise in the Sergeants' Mess on the eve of his departure rivalled that generated by rioters in Belfast.

11 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (211) B.F.P.O. 29

Who's Who!

O.C.	**Major G. Corden**
Second-in-Command .	**Captain C. A. Brown**
R.S.M.	**W.O.I (R.S.M.) A. E. W. Cave**
Comms. Officer ...	**Captain R. J. H. Swainson**
O.C. 'A'	**Lieutenant P. R. Dick**
O.C. 'B'	**Second-Lieutenant G. K. Thompson**
R.Q.M.S.	**W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) R. J. Davies**
O.R.S.Q.M.S. ...	**Staff Sergeant F. E. Francis**
Y. of S.	**Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. R. Cole**
Y. of S.	**Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. L. Hawkins**
F. of S.	**Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Brown**

And it rained . . .

5 p.m., Sunday, 28th June, 1970, was the time the Squadron had set to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Corps. All the invitations had been accepted in the Garrison to attend a drumhead service, followed by a march past of the Squadron. The 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders Band was to beat 'Retreat,' having played during the service. The various messes were ready to cater for all the guests to drinks after the ceremony.

During the week there had been rehearsals followed by rehearsals, followed by dress rehearsals. As Sunday approached, it looked as though the Squadron was really going to put on a drum-head service to be remembered. The barracks had been given a spring-clean, timings had been worked out to the second, hair had all been cut short, uniforms had all been well tailored. By Saturday afternoon everything was ready and the sun was shining, nothing could now go wrong.

Sunday came, and it rained, rained, rained, and we all found ourselves taking part in a wet weather programme in the Green Scarf!

Green Scarf Club

The June/July article gave an account of the activities in the club. The photographs this month show the top-class entertainment the club provides, together with the committee who run it.

MAKING THINGS RIP IN THE GREEN SCARF CLUB
Despite the disappointment when rain spoiled a meticulously planned Drumhead Service to celebrate the Corps 50th Anniversary, dampened spirits were soon soaring at the Green Scarf Club when things were really allowed to rip to the music of Australia's top jazz band—The Yara Yara band

THE CLUB THAT HAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO OFFER IN CORPS ENTERTAINMENT
The Green Scarf Club since its inception has gone on steadily as one of the most attractive Corps clubs in BAOR. It puts on really first-class shows every month before an audience somewhere in the neighbourhood of 200—and tickets are sometimes at a premium. The men behind this successful venture, are the forward looking committee who are from left to right: Corporal Collens, Lance-Corporal Cowles, Corporal Francis, Captain C. A. Brown, Lance-Corporal Wing, Lance-Corporal Smyth, Corporal Crook, Corporal Chapman

A Boost to Sales

The Brigade Headquarters staff are always pleased to see their names or photographs printed in THE WIRE. However, although now nearing the end of his two-year tour, the G3 (Int.) has not seen his name appear in any of our articles. He has promised to buy ten copies of THE WIRE should his name appear. How can we disappoint him—**Major A. K. Crawford,** Intelligence Corps.

223 Signal Squadron, Winchester

Major Holland retires after 31 years

WITH retirement on 1st August looming large on the horizon, **Major Charles 'Dutchy' Holland,** the T.O.T., took up one or two long-standing engagements during June to say his goodbyes. To use his own words, he was ". . . greatly honoured . . ." to be dined out by both Sergeants' and Officers' Messes.

A G.P.O. engineer in 1939, he was at annual camp with his Territorial Army unit when the second world war broke out. He is the first to admit that, from then on, "things never looked back." Towards the end of the war he even found himself acting as Chief Signal Officer of St. Helena —and that as a Warrant Officer.

Major Charles 'Dutchy' Holland

In 1945, a Foreman of Signals, he was granted an emergency commission as a Lieutenant (Inspector of Permanent Communications) — probably the last serving member of the Corps to have held such a title. He relinquished it on 1st January, 1947, on accepting one of the newly created T.O.T. appointments.

With service in the Far East, Africa, B.A.O.R. and the U.K., he finally moved to Winchester in 1967 for the setting up of 223 Signal Squadron on 1st April.

Even then fate dealt him one last unusual card; arriving in January to supervise the first installations, he found himself to be the very first member of the unit.

Today, with wife **Jackie, Charles Holland** can look back with pleasure on a full life with the Royal Signals. Elder daughter **Christine,** a teacher until her marriage last year, now lives in Wales, while **Jacqueline** has just made Mum and Dad very proud indeed by getting an Honours Degree at Leeds University.

The Squadron's new T.O.T. is **Captain G. L. P. (Geoff) Hudson,** 40 years old, married, with three children. He joins 223 from H.Q. AFCENT Comunications Repair Depot in the Netherlands. An ex-member of the Royal Signals Boys' Company, Catterick — vintage 1943 — his main relaxation now is fishing.

Squadron celebrates

Throwing caution to the winds, the Squadron really splashed out on its celebrations for the Corps' 'first half-hundred.' A grand dance, buffet, two bands and a professional cabaret assured the success of the evening on Saturday, 13th June.

The problem of finding enough room for two to three hundred revellers to let their hair down, so to speak, was solved by doing a Cinderella-type transformation of the unit gymnasium. (Tip for other units: a most effective decoration is to use crepe paper to create, stable-belt-like bands down the walls and then hang Squadron pennants on this background).

So much was done by so many that it would be impossible to name all who helped, so perhaps it would be kinder just to name the guiding lights of the dance committee, which was chaired by **Captain Douglas Burt.** Co-ordinator was **W.O.II Colin Spears;** Sergeants' Mess and J.R.C. were represented by **Sergeant Jim Young** and **Corporal 'Jock' Douglas;** stores and equipment were 'manipulated' by **Corporal George Cardwell.** The buffet was the brainchild of **Corporal George Hawxwell,** while ideas flowed from **Sergeants Tom Thomson, Tim Feldon, Ali Austin** and **David Jarman,** who also produced and directed two bars and the cabaret.

THEY CERTAINLY ENJOYED THE PARTY

Pictured are Alderman and Mrs. S. G. Steel who were guests of honour at the Squadron's celebrations for the Corps' 50th anniversary. To give him his correct title, which dates back to King Alfred the Great, he is The Right Worshipful Mayor of the City of Winchester. Photograph by Signalman H. F. Hodder

Guest of honour was the 786th Mayor of King Alfred's capital city, **Alderman S. G. Steel,** who, despite three other important engagements that day, still found time and energy to dance a lively hokey-kokey with **Mrs. Steel** and many members of the Squadron. The evening was well rounded off by the departing S.S.M., **W.O.II Graham Thomson,** who joined with the 'Go-Go' girls of the cabaret in keeping everyone on the edges of their chairs.

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

50th Anniversary Celebrations

WE have now finished our celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary, and consider that for a small Squadron we have done very well.

Apart from the visit of the Band in April, reported in a previous edition, the officers held a cocktail party for 300 people in the Brigade Officers' Mess, and not to be outdone, the Sergeants also held a large cocktail party.

28th June, 1970, was Royal Signals Sunday in Berlin. In the morning, 80 members of the Squadron and their families attended a Royal Signals Church Service. The service was conducted by the **Rev. J. W. J. D. Galbraith, M.A., C.F.,** and the Lesson was read by the Squadron Commander, **Major W. B. Foote.** On a scorching afternoon we held a families' athletics meeting. This was run in a very light-hearted fashion, with object of getting maximum participation. Highlight of the afternoon was the obstacle race, during which the competitors were required to drink a bottle of beer. When some of the participants were asked why they stopped at the half-way stage, they replied, "We only came for the beer." The tug-of-war, which was initially intended as a contest between 12 officers and senior N.C.O.s and 12 soldiers, ended up with 40 to 50 people on either side of the rope and rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon for all.

On Sunday evening, we held a barbecue at the families' swimming pool. It was attended by 150 people and got off to a rousing start. Unfortunately, our luck changed, and halfway through the evening we were treated to a heavy storm. Although this upset the original plan of the evening, everybody was determined to enjoy themselves, and we continued cheerfully, if a little wet. Thanks of the Squadron must go to **R.Q.M.S. Nick Leach,** who organised the evening.

Sporting Achievements

Hockey

We have won the Berlin Minor Units' Hockey League for the third year running. This was mainly due to the stalwarts of the team, **S.S.M. Fred Gardner,** our goalie, **Sergeant Ken Timmins,** and **Corporal Eddie Mulvana.**

Athletics

The Berlin Brigade Athletics were held on 18th June. The Squadron was determined to do well, as the previous year we had lost the shield by only one point to the R.M.P. This year the opposition was not so good and we romped away with the Minor Units' Championship. We went forward to the 2nd Division Championships, but the competition there was far too strong for us. Worth a special mention is **Lance-Corporal Joe Brown,** who won both the Brigade and 2nd Division 800 metres.

Water Polo

Due to lack of entries, the Brigade Water Polo Championship was a straight match between ourselves and 247 Provost Company, R.M.P. We were far too powerful for them and ran out winners by 16—4. Main goal-scorers were **Captain Ian Penny** (7) and **Signalman Dicky Grant** (6).

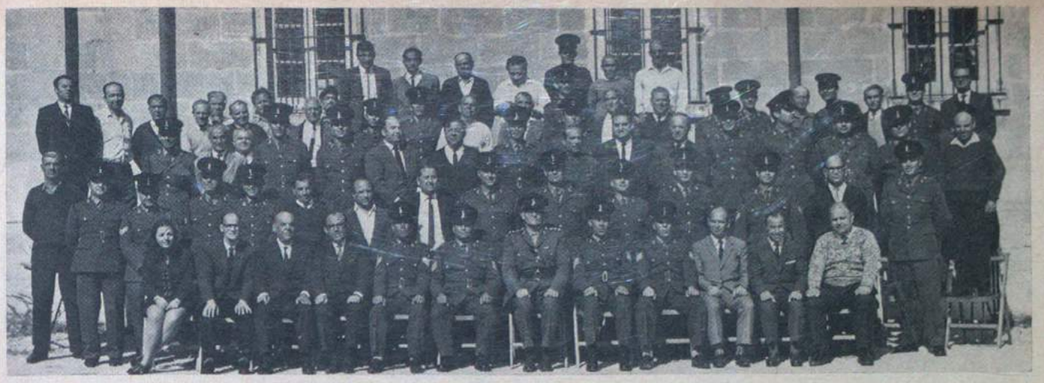
We went forward to the 2nd Division Championships and finished third to 1 RTR and 23rd Regiment, R.E.

Swimming

In the Brigade Swimming Championships, the Squadron again turned out to be too strong for the opposition and finished the afternoon with maximum points from all five races. There are no other minor units entered from 2nd Division, so we now move to the B.A.O.R. finals at Sennelager on 22nd July.

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

Why not do so now?



LINE TROOP 234 SIGNAL SQUADRON (MALTA), MAY 1970

Back row: **Mr. S. Galea, Mr. J. Sultana, Mr. A. Fenech, Mr. J. Ciantar, Signalman J. Camilleri, Mr. E. Mallia, Mr. J. Aquilina**

Third row: **Mr. J. Busuttil, Mr. A. Cutajar, Mr. C. Galea, Mr. F. Caruana, Mr. F. Ciantar, Mr. J. Fenech, Mr. M. Mifsud, Mr. G. Fenech, Corporal J. Bernetti, Signalman A. Galea, Signalman G. Delorenzo, Mr. E. Bugeja, Mr. S. Mallia, Signalman N. Brincat, Mr. F. Attard, Mr. P. Borg, Signalman A. Grixti, Signalman J. Debattista, Mr. A. Azzopardi, Signalman C. Pace, Mr. S. Axisa, Signalman L. Spiteri, Mr. A. Cauchi**

Second row: **Signalman L. Magri, Mr. A. Grech, Mr. C. Muscat, Signalman V. Attard, Signalman S. Spiteri, Mr. P. Abdilla, Mr. V. Mangion, Lance-Corporal L. Cauchi, Lance-Corporal V. Garrard, Mr. J. Mifsud, Mr. J. Cachia, Mr. G. Borda, Signalman J. Mizzi, Signalman J. Bartolo, Signalman J. Attard, Signalman J. Busuttil, Signalman E. Xuereb, Mr. A. Fenech**

First row: **Mr. G. Schembri, Signalman C. Chetcuti, Corporal J. Palmier, Corporal J. Xuereb, Corporal R. Grech, Mr. J. Zammit, Mr. J. Vella, Mr. L. Lanzon, Corporal C. Zammit, Corporal E. Delia, Corporal J. Mamo, Corporal C. Camilleri, Corporal P. Frendo-Cumbo, Mr. E. Montefort, Signalman J. Camilleri 603**

Seated: **Miss C. Whitwam, Mr. R. Campbell, Mr. C. Fenech, Mr. J. Zammit, Sergeant R. Hales, Staff-Sergeant J. Grech, B.E.M., Captain R. S. Rowland, Royal Signals, Staff-Sergeant A. Mifsud, Sergeant V. Zammit, Mr. V. Barbara, Mr. J. V. Bonnici, Mr. F. Falzon**

234 Signal Squadron (Malta)
B.F.P.O. 51

Line Troop

AS these notes go to press **Captain Bob Rowland** will be in the process of handing over to **Captain Mike Macklin,** whom we welcome to the fold. In an island creaking with the strain of change it is not surprising that Line Troop has borne much of the brunt of the increased workload, and will continue to do so — **Captain Bob Rowland** has seen it through a busy time and done a great deal to tidy up the rationalised services telephone system. After well over three years he has been heard to admit that he would have liked another year! All of us and especially those in his troop wish him congratulations on the promotion, and to both him and his wife and family good luck for the future, and a happy stay in 30th Signal Regiment. The photograph accompanying these notes may be of interest — one of almost the entire troop which may be of particular interest to those who have served in the squadron.

Another farewell

We said our farewell to **Major** and **Mrs. Frank Ellis** the other day, sad to relate on retirement, but he will continue with the Corps as a R.O. III at Rheindalen. He served as S.O. 2 in Signals Branch, H.Q. British Troops Malta, and we'd like to say thank you for his oft-given help and patience, and to wish both of them every happiness in retirement. We welcome their replacement, **Major** and **Mrs. John Montague,** fresh from the green of Ulster — sorry we are getting a bit brown here now!

Athletics

Farewells are sad and so it is cheering to relate that, although the Army could not field an athletics team this year in the Inter-Services Championship (due to absence of both battalions from the island), we did do our little bit. We were kindly allowed to enter four individuals and two of them came second in their events and so well deserve our congratulations — **Corporal Bill Littlewood** reached the finals of the 100 and 200 metres and finished second in the long jump, and **Corporal Derick Pickup** came second in the 1500 metres (by only two inches!). Bad luck to our two javelin throwers, **Corporals Frank Russell** and **Victor Smith,** not to get a placing (they were afraid of hitting the low flying aircraft I gather!).

244 Signal Squadron
(Air Support)
Tangmere, Sussex

Presentation

THE highlight of July has, of course, been the Corps 50th Anniversary Celebrations. 244 Signal Squadron has played its part in these by taking part in a presentation to 38 Group, R.A.F., of which we are a part. The presentation was of a small statuette and received coverage in the newspapers and on television. A full report of the presentation appears elsewhere in this edition of THE WIRE (see pages 338/9).

Exercise 'Bersatu Padu'

No doubt readers will have seen several references to Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' in the press and on television. This was a very big and expensive exercise in the Far East designed to show our friends in Malaysia that we can come to their aid swiftly if required.

244 Signal Squadron had a considerable contingent taking part, including the O.C., **Major Derek Poole,** and at the time of writing, we can expect them back in dribs and drabs over the next few weeks.

We have kept in touch by means of a nefarious publication which goes under the splendid title of 'The Dungun Sun.' This appears to have been written, published, edited and distributed by the 'Terrible Twins,' **Corporals Harrison** and **Abson.** It is supposed to have been a detachment newsletter, designed to keep everyone up to date with the goings-on in the outside world, but news was obviously lacking in both quantity and quality, and had to make way for all sorts of other items, including an advert for a 'Soopah doopah pullout nude" from the centre pages of 'Playboy.'

Is this a record?

There have been various comings and goings to and from the Squadron recently—more comings than goings, we're glad to say, since we are building up towards our establishment—but they are really too numerous to mention them all. Soon, however, we lose **Sergeant Derek Drew,** Operations/Training N.C.O. who is leaving the Service after nine years.

Strangely enough, apart from his initial training as a line technician, **Sergeant Drew** has done his nine years' service

in the same unit. On leaving Catterick, in July, 1962, he was posted to 638 Signal Troop, from which 244 was formed. He served in Greece, Aden (three times), Cyprus, B.A.O.R., El Adem and U.K. with 638 Signal Troop and has passed all his trade and military proficiency courses, etc., whilst in the unit. He holds the G.S.M. for Radfan and South Arabia. Is this a record? Whether it is or not, we shall be sorry to see him go.

In the future

By the time it is necessary to write THE WIRE notes again, we should have much more news of 'Bersatu Padu,' which will undoubtedly provide interesting reading.

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Corps 50th Anniversary

HOW can a small unit like ours celebrate the Corps Anniversary? Well, we are very close neighbours of the twelve-man 28 Commonwealth Brigade Signal detachment, and so it seemed fitting and proper to celebrate in the usual Commonwealth way—a cricket match helped along with a drop of beer.

The rules, drawn up by **W.O.II Gormanley,** R.N.Z. Signals, were simple. Everyone was to bowl two overs, no one could be 'out for a duck' and after every four overs, refreshments were to be served.

Brimming over with confidence, we opened the batting. The first balls received were always nice and gentle, so that a run could be scored, after that the real bowling started. The only way to retaliate was with the refreshments. **Corporal Red Goodchild** was quick to point out to the Commonwealth communicators the fine qualities of Gurkha rum with beer as a 'chaser.'

It was not long before the Aussies and Kiwis were feeling the effects, and the bowlers lost their deadly accuracy. After four breaks for refreshment, we knocked up 62 runs. Our tail-enders let us down—they had been at the beer as well.

Our turn to field came and we realised how hot it was in the sun. Reserve refreshment was called for, and behind the wickets appeared a small cache of canned beer. The batsmen were having some difficulty seeing which ball to hit, whereas, judging from the number of wides bowled, our bowlers didn't know where the wickets were.

Things weren't looking too well for us scorewise, however, some skilful decisions by our umpire, **Sergeant Nigel Zorab,** resulted in an exact tie—62-all.

The score of beers and bottles of rum drunk was not recorded, but it can be assured that the Corps Anniversary was well and truly celebrated.

A bit about work

With the pending reduction of Gurkha Signals to only two Squadrons, we have already lost many men on redundancy, but Royal Signals are also short of men, and we now provide a large element of communicators for 249 Signal Squadron, so when you read of their activities you also read of ours. At the moment, they are all away on Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' which, no doubt will be reported on later. In Brunei, we still have our small Signal Troop, with **Sergeant Bill Thomas** and **Corporal Bradford,** and until recently we had a rear link detachment in Sarawak with the Sapper surveyors.

Farewell

248 Gurkha Signal Squadron is now no more, having been absorbed by 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment, who have moved into Nee Soon from Seremban. The Squadron will start up again in late 1971, in Hong Kong, but now we say farewell to the O.C., **Major Mike Barrett,** Second-in-Command, **Captain Pat Thomas, W.O.II (S.S.M.) Tekbahadur Gurung, Sergeant Nigel Zorab** and **Corporal Red Goodchild** and 'au revoir' to the Squadron.

The WIRE

Without it—
You're not With it!

255 Signal Squadron (Bahrain)
B.F.P.O. 63

Line Troop of 255 Squadron

Reason. We were left out of Wire Notes last time, though we play an important part in the communication system in Bahrein, manning two exchanges and looking after seven hundred circuits. So take a good look at us—here we are.
Front row: From left to right: **Corporal Luck, O.C. Second-Lieutenant Paterson, Sergeant Wood, Lance-Corporal Dudley**
Centre row: **Lance-Corporal Dymock, Signalman Pounder, Signalman Law, Lance-Corporal McFarlane, Corporal Reardon**
Back row: **Signalman Murphy, Corporal Davies, Signalman Hainsworth, Corporal Whitfield, Signalman Hudson, Corporal Letts, Signalman Dorricott, Lance-Corporal Perrior**

Line Troop

We feel unwanted! Unfortunately, the last time that 255 Squadron were put into print, Line Troop were left out, therefore, we thought it necessary to make up for it this time.

As is usual in most Regiments or Squadrons, the Line Troop plays a very important part in the communications system. This is particularly so in Bahrain, manning two exchanges and looking after approximately seven hundred circuits.

Times have been hard through the last few months, seeing more postings out than postings in, and pressure of work has caused many of us to put in a lot of overtime (no such thing, you say, don't you believe it!). So, if you are a 'lineless hairy' or an out-of-work tech., someone, somewhere, wants to hear from you (preferably by the next post!).

For the last few months we have been plagued by hungry rats, which have 'dined out' on our telephone cables. This 'ratastrophy' caused us many a headache, in particularly to **Sergeant 'Chippy' Wood** (N.C.O.-in-charge lines), **Corporal Whitfield** (SG) and **Lance-Corporal Dudley** (Hairy Legs!).

Not satisfied with a 50-pair for an hors d'oeuvre, the rats then started on a 100-pair for the main course, and had a 10-pair intercom cable for a sweet. If anyone should happen to know what type of cheese and biscuits they are going to have, would they please ring O.C. Line Troop on ". . . . "

It has often been said that Line Troop are a load of animals (haven't they, 'Spud'—**Signalman Murphy**) which isn't true, of course. However, we are very fortunate in being allowed to keep a Troop mascot, a young mongrel pup, which was handed down by the R.A.F. and then the R.E.M.E. to the kind and ever-loving Line Troop. 'Brutus' is now about two months old and growing rapidly, eating us out of house and home. He is now a great favourite amongst the Squadron personnel and occupies a very important place in the O.C. Troop's (**Second-Lieutenant Paterson**) office—a plush armchair reserved for distinguished guests and visitors.

"Won't you sit down, sir?"

"I think I'll stand if you don't mind!"

Apart from everyday work, Line Troop takes on anything from concreting, carpentry, motor mechanics, decorating, etc., and, of course, 'ale-supping.'

In the world of sport, Line Troop has a hard job to find competition, achieving high standards in all events. Special mention here to **Lance-Corporal Dudley** (who has just left us) who was the sportsman of the Troop, doing very well in football, cricket and badminton. Our football team have done well, too, being unbeaten at the end of the season. Team: **Sergeant Wood, Corporals Luck, Whitfield, Miller** and **Hanifin, Lance-Corporals Perrior, Dudley** and **Johnstone, Signalmen Hudson, Law, Murphy** and **Rankin).**

Recently the linemen built a picturesque fishpond and patio, which does much to enhance the outlook of the exchange. The pool is occupied by numerous kinds of fish and 'Fred' the terrapin (this, for the uneducated, is a sort of waterproofed tortoise) which draws numerous sightseers. (The pool has recently been named the 'Sergeant-Major's Sanctuary'—have you any dog meat for Fred?).

Concluding on a quiet note, Line Troop would like to wish all its ex-members the very best of luck, wherever they may be serving, and welcome all the new members of the Troop, hoping they will enjoy their stay with 'industrious' Line Troop. Recent departures included **Lance-Corporal Bill Davies,** (Little old wine drinker me), **Lance-Corporal 'Dusty' Rhodes, Lance-Corporal Kerry Reardon, Lance-Corporal Dudley** ('Hairy Legs'), **Lance-Corporal Brian Perrior, Signalman 'Little John' Hainsworth** (now chicken farmer John) and **Signalman Dave Dorricot.** New arrivals include **Corporal Jim Hanifin, Corporal Dave White, Lance-Corporal 'Geordie' Spires, Signalman 'Lofty' Rankin, Signalman Tom Law, Signalman Ken Ford** and **Signalman 'Pop' Pounder.**

'The Outpost'

The 'Outpost' is the name which has been given to the new Squadron Club, opened on Friday, 29th May, by the Squadron Commander—**Major John Brian.** The Club got off to an excellent start with a barbecue and the ancient British Beer Drinking Ceremony. As a useless fact for those who collect statistics, the consumption for that evening was 1,792 cans of beer! The manager, **R.Q.M.S. Ernie Withall,** is still counting the takings.

We were very pleased to welcome 15 members of 222 Squadron (Sharjah) to the opening. These included **Captain 'Mike' McCann** and **S.S.M. 'Bob' McGregor.** They joined in the inter-troop darts contest and everything else that was going and were notably enthusiastic towards our previously mentioned useless statistic. During the evening there was a cabaret provided by the Second-in-Command, **Captain 'Bill' Griffiths** (harmonica), accompanied by **Lieutenant Chris Greig** (guitar). The show being opened by **Second-Lieutenant Hugh Paterson** on his bugle. The climax of the evening came when the draw was made for the raffle. **S.S.M. Eric Le Quesne** had been conning everybody in Bahrain to buy these tickets over the last month and there was a fine array of prizes to be won. The star prize, a cassette tape recorder, being won by the Squadron Commander.

The Club is now in fully daily service, the first barman, **Lance-Corporal Dave Wood,** has just handed over to **Corporal Dave Isherwood** and is beating a rapid retreat to U.K.

The 'Outpost' did not appear overnight and a lot of very hard work was put into the building of the bar and the decorating of the clubroom. Line Troop bore the brunt of the work. Special mention must be made of **Corporal John Luck,** who spent more hours of his own time working in the Club than one would care to calculate, and **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' McKittrick** who was responsible for the painting on the walls and **Corporal Chris Rogers,** chief plumber, who gave up his Easter Grant to install the sink unit. The Squadron is taking full advantage of their efforts.

Gentlemen—the Outpost Club is now open

The Squadron Commander, Major John Brian, cuts the tape at the opening of the new Outpost Club and the culmination of much hard work and enthusiasm was reached. For those interested in statistics it got off to a fine start—one thousand, seven hundred and ninety two cans of beer were consumed on the night in question. But what a night!

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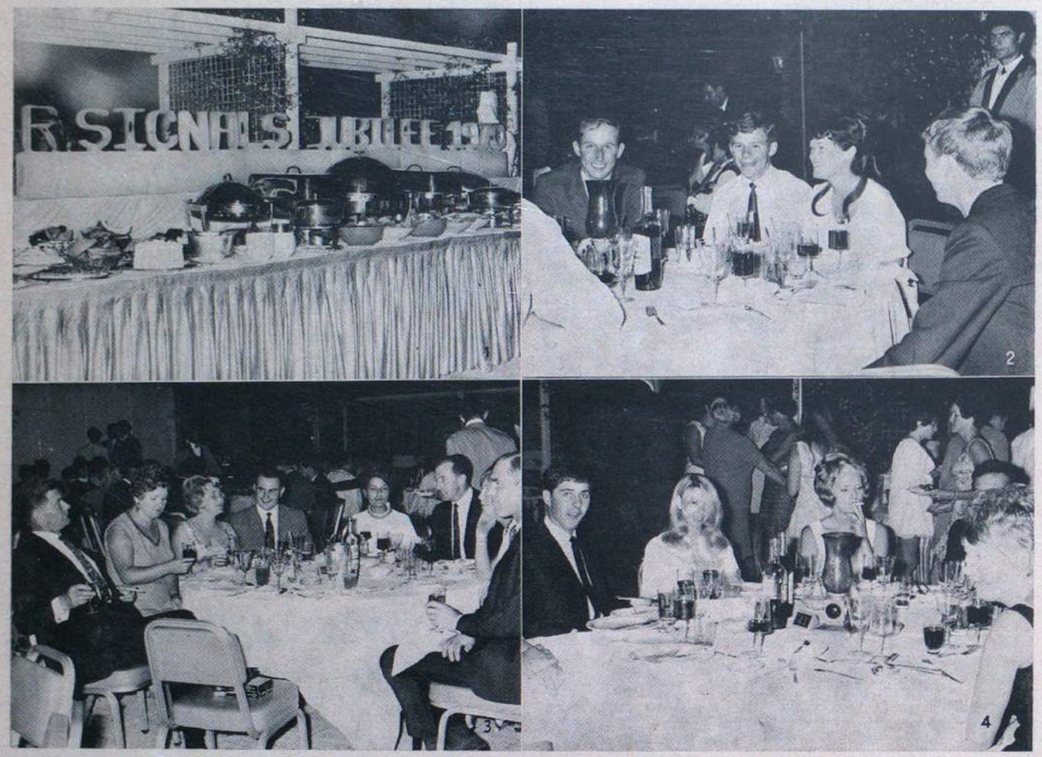
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

Only the best is good enough for 259 Squadron — as they go partying at the Nicosia Hilton!



1. One of the reasons why the Squadron went to the Nicosia Hilton—the buffet marking the Royal Signals Jubilee
2. A party from East Troop with their ladies waiting to start dinner
3. A representative crowd from Episkopi, with Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Leiper, S.S.M. and Mrs. Kelly, S.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Maidment and W.O.I. and Mrs. Short
4. Parties everywhere—well wined and dined. Another Episkopi table

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53

SINCE our last contribution, things have moved apace—another IS exercise, three athletics meetings, two rifle meetings, the start of a lineman upgrading course, and, of course, the Jubilee Celebrations.

Exercise 'Steep'

The call came, as predicted, in the dead of night and, as pre-arranged, the Episkopi-based shift saw the Squadron safely through the first onslaughts of the enemy, which included the simulated (thank goodness) sabotage to the main test point, and various other sorties aimed at testing the Squadron's reaction. By the time the day shift arrived, the situation was well under control, until some enterprising saboteur blew up the main exchange. **Foreman Keith Eustace, Corporals Derek Brown** and **Graham Reynolds,** who must be gifted with second sight, had the mobile exchange 3-tonner and 2-ton trailer warmed-up, moved, and in business within the hour. As the exercise finished before schedule, it can only be presumed that the DS ran out of ideas of 'how to catch these damned signallers on the hop!'

Other Events

The athletics season started with an innovation—an inter-Troop meeting, organised by **Foreman Derek Prime.** As expected, Akrotiri Airfield Troop 'A' emerged the winners, but only narrowly, over **Sergeant Terry Stacey's** gallant band from Nicosia Airfield Troop, the strength of which is ten 'all souls.' A commendable effort. This small meeting served in bringing to light the stalwarts who would represent us in the Commander, 3rd Signal Group Meeting, which is an annual contest between the six Signal Squadrons on the island. As feared,

LINEMAN LOOK CHEERFUL ON UPGRADING BIII-BII COURSE
Back, left to right: Sergeant Dave Brackston, Corporal Colin Campbell, Corporal Dennis Corser, Corporal Colin Harvey, Lance-Corporal Alex Peddie, Lance-Corporal Trev Makin
Centre, left to right: Signalman Mick Liversidge, Signalman Mick Howie, Captain (T.O.T.) J. A. Milton, Signalman Jim Bartley, Signalman Ernie Hooper
Front, left to right: Signalman Dave Moore, Signalman Archie McKay Signalman Pete Lockhart, Signalman Les Addison, Signalman Steve Fletcher

1 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment, won the trophy, just pipping us by 4½ points. Our strength lay principally in the field events, where **Corporal Mick Norton,** javelin; **Signalman Mick Howie,** long jump; **Lance-Corporal Chris Bond,** shot, and **Lance-Corporal Dick Russell,** high jump, gained us valuable points.

On the track, the harvest was smaller, but some very determined running in 90°F., earned the admiration of the spectators and the respect of the opposition, particularly **Signalman Paul Morton's** efforts in the 800 metres, where he took second place. This took us to the finals of the Army Minor Units, by which time we had unfortunately lost some of our stars on RHE, notably **Lance-Corporal Russell** and **Signalman Morton.** Although a disappointing overall result, we managed to take the discus, through **Lance-Corporals Ron Thompson** and **Chris Bond,** and the hop, step and jump, through **Lance-Corporal Matt Collins** and **Signalman Mick Howie.**

On the skill-at-arms side, after a gentle warm-up in the 3rd Signal Group Meeting, we earned a very creditable second place in the NEARELF meeting for all Minor Units on the island, in which **Corporal 'Jock' Villiers** and **Signalman Paul Morton** (again) won the LMG pairs competition. As for our regular shot, **Major N. C. Grayson,** all he managed was the runners-up cup in the Officers' Pistol Match, and a place in the G.O.C.'s XX Champion Rifle Match—he claims that his shooting eye is dimming and the knee he clobbered in a moment of weakness parachuting, has slowed his run-down . . .

HELIO IS IN AGAIN!
S.S.M. Vic Prees gets the priority traffic through from Mt. Olympus. Complex aerial array in background handles routine messages

New mode of signalling

In an effort to improve the Squadron flexibility in signalling media, **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Vic Prees** and **Staff Sergeant (S.Q.M.S.) Nobby Clarke** decided to have a go in improving communications between Mount Olympus and Episkopi, with local Sapper co-operation, they obtained two strange-looking pieces of equipment and using a power source in plentiful supply in Cyprus—the sun—established a link using morse code. Our picture shows the Olympus terminal with the S.S.M. in the hot seat. We shudder to think what a multi-channel system would look like.

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

Corps Jubilee Sunday in Cyprus

ON Sunday, 28th June, we were proud to welcome members of the Royal Corps of Signals serving in Cyprus, who assembled in Dhekelia to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps.

The Corps is well represented on the island, and on Sunday morning, contingents of Royal Signals personnel from every military H.Q., Sovereign Base Area Garrison and retained site in Cyprus converged on Dhekelia.

Church service

The day began with an inter-denominational service in St. George's Garrison Church, Dhekelia, with the D.A.C.G., the **Reverend B. W. Howarth,** leading the officiating Chaplains, and the **Reverend P. B. Denton** in attendance. The service was conducted by the **Reverend A. A. Loades** and the sermon was preached by the **Reverend J. S. Cross**—an appropriate choice, as he is Chaplain of 9th Signal Regiment. **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, O.B.E.,** Commander, 3rd Signal Group, read the Lesson, and, by kind permission of their Commanding Officer, the Band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire played during the service.

Water sports

After the service, uniformed personnel dashed away to change quickly into more comfortable summer rig, and then everyone moved on to lunch in one or other of the three Dhekelia Beach Clubs. Lunch over, the main event of the afternoon began at the St. George Club—a light-hearted, but nevertheless keenly-contested water sports meeting between teams of ten men from each Squadron and 644 Troop.

With the emphasis on spectator interest, the events included pillow fights on a wet pole, obstacle and plate diving, a 'save the ladies' race (all water sports *must* have bathing beauties!), a straight ten-man relay race and a very exciting children's race, in which every contestant won a prize. The overall champions were 2 Squadron, 9th Signal Regiment. The prizes consisted of a Cyprus pottery pint mug for each member of the team, and a large black and white urn-type trophy of vaguely Grecian shape and design motif, to be known as 'The Schnorkel Trophy'—or something! Very appropriately, the prizes were presented by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. McL. McKinnon,** C.O. of 9th Signal Regiment.

Balloon race

Throughout the afternoon, balloons had been on sale at 2s. a time—but these were no ordinary balloons.

Each balloon was filled with hydrogen and had a numbered, stamped and addressed postcard attached, together with in-

FREE FOR ALL
Chaos, confusion, and a fair bit of "nobbling" during the "Save the Ladies" race!

structions in Greek, Turkish and English, asking the finder to post the card as soon as possible. The theory of the race is that the owner (purchaser) of the first card to arrive back in 262 Squadron Commander's office—through official Cyprus and Forces Postal channels—will receive a cash prize.

The final event of the day was the release of the balloons, and now we can sit back and wait for the cards to return. However, if the meteorological expert's advice is incorrect, the mind bogg.es at what might result from a card landing in Omsk or Minsk!

Since the balloons were despatched, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley** has offered a special prize for the card which returns from farthest afield before the end of July.

OTHER HIGHLIGHT SNIPPETS

Link via Satellite

Over the weekend 20th-21st June, a teleprinter circuit was operated direct from a 14th Regiment terminal at the Aldershot Show, via the satellite link to Cyprus and into a terminal in our Dhekelia comcen. During the weekend, we received and forwarded 27 personal messages from visitors to the show to their friends and relatives in Cyprus.

Athletics

Major Gent, Sergeant Stocks and **Corporal Cossou** won their Army (Cyprus) Colours competing in the Cyprus Inter-Service match, Army versus R.A.F. on 16th June. The Corps as a whole was very well represented in the Army team.

Visitors

A detachment of W.R.A.C. operators from 39th Regiment (V), under the command of **Captain Gillian Dearmer,** W.R.A.C., has been training in Dhekelia since 26th June—and communicating very successfully too!

Cadre course

While on the subject, our own W.R.A.C. were very much concerned with an N.C.O. Cadre Course, 22nd to 26th June. **Captain Liz Poole** (fresh from gaining an 'A' on an accounts course) and **Staff Sergeant Jan Ellis** were instructing, and **Lance-Corporals Grace Fielding** and **Chris Thomson** were among the successful students.

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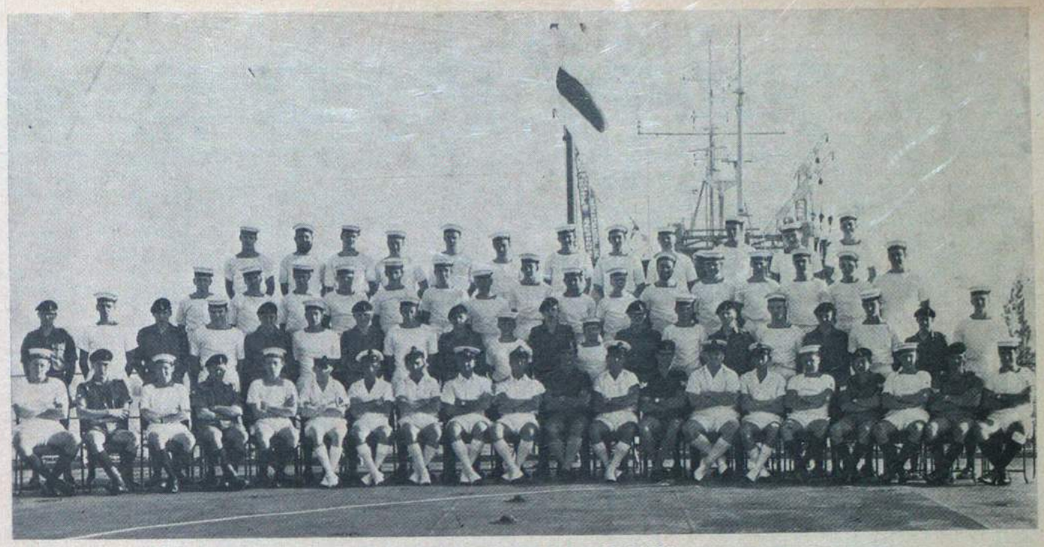

COMMUNICATORS—H.M.S. FEARLESS
Royal Signals in the photo are as follows:
Front row (left to right): Corporal Smith, Lance-Corporal Williams, Captain Rumford, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Fisher, Corporal Higginson Corporal Mawer
Second row (left to right): Signalman Ebrey, Signalman Budden, Lance-Corporal Smith, Signalman Allen, Signalman Smith, Signalman Brussau, Signalman Hunter, Signalman Leonard, Signalman Grant and Signalmar. Walker
Ships Communications Officer, Lieutenant-Commander Broomfield, R.N. is in centre of front row

621 Signal Troop (LPD)
H.M.S. Fearless
B.F.P.O. Ships

END OF COMMISSION NOTES

By Signalman Bob Leonard

TO recap. It was late November when the good ship *Fearless* steamed into Fremantle, Western Australia. For the uninformed, this is near Perth. So, getting into our best dress, we trotted ashore in true women-hungry tradition of the Royal Signals. The objects of our search were fabulous.

Happy memories of Fremantle

Our job during the stay was to man the ship's manual exchange. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as the ship had attracted a lot of attention when she rescued a small boat some miles off the coast. The net result was that the telephones never stopped ringing, with people inviting us out for big eats, weekends in the country, or just a drink at their expense. Most of these invitations were passed on to a committee for the benefit of the masses (the 550 'Jacks' on board). When some of them realised we were picking the best invitations for ourselves, they tried to join the telex watchbill, in fact, we had a sailor helping out for the last week. He was too late, we had already trapped the best girls. We sailed two weeks later, having made many good friends, and will have many memories of Fremantle for years to come.

Christmas in Singapore

Christmas was spent in an eastern manner in Singapore, with most of the Troop holding an impromptu carol service one night in Bougis Street (well known for its night 'activities'). The Troop had a week's leave, either over Christmas or the New Year. Most of the lads went to the Cameron Highlands for a rest and a 'dry out.'

Our faithfulness to our Aussie girlfriends ended at a dance at R.A.F. Seletar. This was due to a plentiful supply of girls, but drink was non-existent. Willpower was at a premium until a bar was discovered 50 yards along the road. However, our holiday in Seletar did not last long; to the dismay of the girls and sighs of relief of the parents, we sailed on Exercise 'Janex,' one of the bi-annual naval exercises. This lasted nearly three weeks, in which time we got insomnia (we worked a two-watch system of four on and four off).

Bangkok was fantastic

In February, we were in Bangkok. What can one say about Bangkok? It is fantastic! Mainly due to the efforts of the White Inn, Ex Golden Arrow or otherwise called 649 Signal Troop, we had a ball. It took certain members of the Troop several months to recover. Armed with our Thai swords and various other souvenirs, we left quietly.

And so to Hong Kong

March found us in Hong Kong again for a final visit. We have had some good runs ashore there during the commission. **Signalmen Harry Brussau** and **'Scouse' Walker** developed far beyond their years. The 'happening' was the in club. Members of the W.R.A.C. get a discount on drinks, so friendship between the two Corps bloomed. We had something in common, anyway, they manned the military telephone exchange. Throughout our tour in the Far East we have received a lot of assistance from Royal Signals units and would like to take this opportunity to thank 18th Signal Regiment, 249 Signal Squadron, 252 and 253 Signal Squadrons, 248 Gurkha Signal Squadron, and all the numerous individuals who, at times, have gone out of their way to help us.

Communications too good!

In April, we did Exercise Flying Fish, the largest exercise for over a year east of Suez. We had 3 Commando Brigade Headquarters on board and the friendly assistance of **Major Ray Frost, R.M.,** the Brigade Signals Officer, and **Yeoman of Signals Stace, R.M.** The embarked force of 'boot-necks' remained on board for a week, enjoying every minute! The communications for this exercise were too good, said the Brigadier, and unlikely to happen in war. . . . Oh well, you can't please everyone.

We sailed almost immediately from Singapore for the Arabian Gulf, for Bahrain, and yet another exercise. The O.C. managed, somehow, to fly ahead to jack things up; how he got to Cyprus, and why, still remains a secret!

Whilst we crossed the Indian Ocean we had a very successful communications link to the R.A.F. in Cyprus. The Royal Navy, especially on *Fearless*, seem to be very good at working long range HF links. Well done, the ROs!

After attempting to play football against an unnamed Bahrain Signal Squadron (we lost 11—0), we sailed with the late 4th Battalion Royal Anglians on Exercise 'Entrold.' This exercsie only lasted a few days, but it was a change to have communicators from all three Services working side by side. We had somehow managed to 'acquire' some R.A.F.

Durban—one of the great runs of the commission

After a brief R and R in Bahrain, we sailed for Durban, in South Africa. This ranks alongside Australia as one of the great runs of the commission. Everyone enjoyed themselves and most visited the world-famous 'Smugglers,' which is an experience in its own right. There were parties and girls, and girls and parties until we were pleased to leave. At the end of May, therefore, we sailed from this paradise to the island of Madeira, 14 days' sailing and several thousand miles away. This island is famous for its wines and basketwork, as we all found out. The Troop's crowning glory must have been when **Lance-Corporal 'Crispy' Smith, Signalman Bob Ebrey** and I came back on board after an afternoon's shopping spree, riding in a bullock cart, wearing sombreros, carrying baskets and up to the eyes in local wine.

Back home and we split up

Now we have arrived back in England and the commission is over. Five of us are posted, the others go to Blandford to re-form and commence training for the next commission. Farewell to **Lance-Corporal Smith,** who goes to 16th Signal Regiment, and **Corporal 'Taff' Mawer, Lance-Corporal Rod Williams** and **Signalman Johnny Budden,** who go to 244 Signal Squadron. I am also posted to 16th Regiment, but via an upgrading course. If anyone reading this is due for a Far East tour, I have lots of gear to sell!

Afterthought.—If anyone is thinking of joining one of the Ship Signal Troops, did you know we do not pay accommodation or food charges whilst on board!

653 SIGNAL TROOP AND MARCUS—POSE FOR 'THE WIRE'

The O.C., N.C.O.'s and Soldiers of 653 Signal Troop at the School of Artillery, Manorbier, pose for the camera, but they cannot leave out Dog Marcus who obviously wants to steal the picture. *(Left to right):*

Back Row: **Signalman 'Andy' Munro, Signalman 'George' Brown, Signalman 'Cassius' Spencer, Lance-Corporal 'Dippy' De Pulford, Lance-Corporal 'Bill' Pitt, Lance-Corporal 'Jim' Evans**

Middle Row: **Corporal 'Chris' Tout, Lance-Corporal 'Inky' Garner, Signalman 'George' Donnelly, Lance-Corporal 'Dougy' Bellshaw, Corporal 'Tommo' Thompson, Corporal 'John' Tuck, Corporal 'Sam' Bondin, Lance-Corporal 'Fiji' Vijaynand, Signalman 'Al' Wilson, Signalman 'Art' Wilson, Signalman 'Arthur' Langsford, Signalman 'Lolly' Lorimer**

Sitting: **Sergeant 'Pat' McGerty, Sergeant 'Gaz' Sharp, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Mike' Truran, Captain G. J. H. Grist, Sergeant 'Larry' Jukes, Sergeant 'John' Spick, Corporal 'Dodger' Green, Dog 'Marcus'**

644 Signal Troop (UNFICYP) B.F.P.O. 667

HAVING missed two WIRE publications, 644 Signal Troop H.Q. UNFICYP is back in print again. Somehow our previous two sets of notes have slipped through the net.

Force Commander visits

On Tuesday, 23rd June, the Force Commander, **Major General Prem Chand,** visited the Troop. The visit almost became a disaster when **Lance-Corporal John Taylor,** while in the process of greasing batteries, attempted to shake hands with the General, grease, muck, grime as well. The General must have heard of **John's** habit of putting his foot in it, and deftly grabbed his arm instead. The General also visited the Comcen and Technical Workshops and thanked members of the Troop for their high standard of communications. Here **Lance-Corporal Bonar Law** was snapped rewiring the chassis of a C43 receiver, to which we are about to say farewell (no reflection on your rewiring ability **Bonar**).

TECHNICIAN ON THE JOB

Major-General Prem Chand, Commander United Nations Forces, in Cyprus, has a word with Lance-Corporal Bonar Law

We enjoy sport but . . .

The Troop entered a swimming team in the recent Corps 50th Anniversary celebrations at Dhekelia. Though in the final tally we came second, what the commentator, **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Cockerill,** of 262, described as 'a gallant and courageous second place' — (thanks **Tom,** visit us any time), we certainly had the highest powered team, consisting of the Chief Signal Officer UNFICYP, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft,** the Troop Commander, **Captain Jonathan Cox, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) John Hill, Sergeant Jim Annear, Corporal John Banks** (team captain), **Lance-Corporals Denis Braithwaite** and **Jim Lander, Signalmen Alan Jarwood, Doug Knight** and **Dave Marsden.** We have also had mixed fortune in the cricket field, but have been able to hold our heads high in the end, thanks mainly to our all-rounders, **Lieutenant John Thewlis, Lance-Corporal 'Smudge' Smith, Corporal Doug Friend** and **Signalman Alan Bates.**

. . . we really work very hard

From the notes it would seem apparent that we have very little to do except play sport: that is, however, completely untrue, we also work extremely hard, but don't talk about it. A recent visitor from 30th Signal Regiment (our parent unit) was **Major Nick Williams,** who spent three days informally visiting the unit, and after visiting all departments he spent an evening in our All Ranks Club, then helped the Officers and Senior N.C.O.'s polish off Kebabs and wine at an evening out in Nicosia.

It his hoped to publish a short history of Signals with UNFICYP since its formation in 1964. Would all past members of 644 Signal Troop and Royal Signals personnel who have been associated with UNFICYP who can assist us with information please forward it. Any incidents, no matter how small, of devotion to duty, feats of skill, humorous or otherwise, would be greatly appreciated. Please forward any information to Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) J. B. T. Hill, 644 Signal Troop, H.Q. UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 667. Even such information as 'I served February-July 1967, the O.C. was . . . etc. etc. would be more than welcome.

THE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make their mark at camp

31st (GL) Signal Regiment (V) cross the Channel

A camp something like home?

TWO years of hard work came to a climax in June, when the Regiment embarked on the LSL *Sir Geraint* for annual camp in N.W. Europe. Two weeks under 'field conditions' ahead of us, culminating in participation in Exercise 'Sigex,' was viewed with some misgivings by many who had joined us since our last Continental camp in 1968. Stories had been freely told by the old hands of the fearful conditions that lay ahead. This time, however, the luxury of our 1834 barracks, which had somehow been left off the local equivalent of the M.P.B.W.'s maintenance programme was not to be our temporary home; instead, we heard rumours of a deserted camp, 12½ miles from anywhere. In the event, those of us who weren't 'deployed,' have the U.S. Army to thank for such luxuries as beds, blankets and sheets, which were produced by their local unit. The 'deserted camp' was transformed by our advance party and the U.S. Army into something like home. (Well, not exactly home perhaps, but enough to induce comments from our old hands that 'it never used to be like this').

Communications said to be near impossible

Our communications task was formidable, and whatever faults we may have had, over-confidence was not one of them! Our Group Commander had expressed doubts quite openly that the Radio Relay Squadron was taking on a near-impossible task; the Commanding Officer could be seen at frequent intervals adding up the names on his nominal roll of commcen operators to see if, presumably by some miracle, it had grown into the minimum number of reinforcements required for the commcen whilst the Training Major was observed running from one D11 detachment to another to find out if they were still 'through.' As the Group Commander and the C.O. found time to spend two days of the exercise viewing Europe from a helicopter ('visiting relays' was the official explanation) and the Training Major had time to denude the most enormous cherry tree in the camp of most of its fruit single-handed, we can only assume that the communications were not causing the management much concern!

Visitors—including an old friend

Our visitors included Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee, from N.A.T.O. H.Q., who spent a day with us. Having inspected the quarter guard, he was introduced to the mysteries of the T.A.V.R. by the C.O. in a short briefing before visiting our Administrative and Command Group areas, where he spoke to many of the volunteers. We had a number of visits from

YES—WE VOLUNTEERED TO DO THIS
Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee enjoys a joke with the lineman

GETTING TO KNOW YOU
Left to right: S.S.M. Mills, R.S.M. Alfred and S.S.M. Miller more than break the ice with Captain Ryves—Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee's A.D.C. R.S.M. Alfred—for strictness renowned—caught by the camera in an unusually relaxed moment!

an old friend of the Regiment, **Major-General E. Gralka,** A.C.O.S(CANDE) at SHAPE, who last year had made a special journey to England to visit us at Scarborough. He amazed us by remembering so many of us whom he had met on that occasion. He takes a great interest in the Regiment: "We have nothing like this in the German Army," is his oft repeated remark; we hope it is meant as a compliment! On the final day, just before our departure for U.K., **Brigadier O. J. Peck (General Gralka's** deputy) presented the Regiment, on the General's behalf, with a signed plaque, in "appreciation of their co-operation and support on Exercise 'Sigex, 1970.'" We all felt that the same remark applied even more to **General Gralka** and his staff, who did so much to smooth our passage.

The Honorary Colonel and the Mayor, too, with Rolls-Royce

We were, as always, delighted to welcome **Colonel B. R. Wood,** our Honorary Colonel, who managed to spare two days to join us on the Continent. He divided his time between seeing as many of our members as possible and helping us to entertain the Mayor of Harrow (from the adoptive Borough of our Middlesex Yeomanry Squadron) who, with his party also spent two days with us, having come across in the Mayoral Rolls-Royce. The car was an incongruous sight parked beside a heavily-camouflaged radio relay detachment!

50th Anniversary celebrated

The chronicles of camp could no doubt fill many pages of THE WIRE, but we know only too well the Editor's skill with the scissors! We should, however, mention the fact that as we were in Europe at the time of the Blandford 50th Anniversary Celebrations, we mustered 60 off-duty men to represent the Regiment at the Royal Signals Service held at SHAPE, which was conducted by our own Padre. The officers of the Regiment also entertained some 50 officers and their wives from SHAPE at a cocktail party to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Corps.

A camp to be remembered

All too soon (for most of us!) it was over. Camp, 1970, will be remembered for many things—the wonderful weather; the civilian friends we made in the local village; the kindness of the farmers and others who hosted our relay detachments; the generosity of the U.S. Army and the real co-operation and goodwill we found amongst all ranks of all the Allied Services with whom we came into contact. Really, though, we ought to remember it as the camp when we deployed our full communications and it all worked—but somehow, I feel, the Training Major for one, will look back in his old age and all he will recall are those wonderful juicy cherries. Sad, but there it is!

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NATOCARS

THAT VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!
Members of 89 (Warwickshire) Signal Squadron look ready to take on anything

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham

DURING the month of May the Regiment moved to B.A.O.R. for annual camp. The main vehicle party of 106 vehicles and 70 trailers travelled via North Sea Ferries from Hull to Rotterdam. Some 250 all ranks were flown out from Birmingham Airport to Wildenrath. A base camp was established on the Egelsberg training area.

48 hours and straight out on an exercise

The Regiment, after 48 hours shake-down in the base camp, deployed out to the exercise area, alongside 28th (BR) Signal Regiment, together with Dutch and German units. Once again the Volunteer proved his worth and settled down to provide good communications. The W.R.A.C. contingent had a busy and interesting time in coping with their duties in the tape relay centre, telephone exchange and field cooking.

We were very fortunate to receive a visit from our G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command, **Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crockenden, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,** who spent the day visiting detachments. He was entertained to a 'picnic lunch' overlooking the dropping zones, where he landed with the Airborne Forces during the Rhine Crossing in Spring, 1945.

Other welcome visitors included the Commander, 11 Signal Group, **Brigadier R. H. Borthwick;** the A.D.W.R.A.C., H.Q., B.A.O.R., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Field,** and A.D.W.R.A.C., Western Command, **Lieutenant-Colonel M. U. Walker.**

28th Regiment were very good hosts

Life would have been a lot more difficult without the help of 28 (BR) Signal Regiment, who proved to be, as before, very good hosts. All returned to England without loss; no soldier or vehicle being left behind in Germany. Our L.A.D., as always, gave a first class service.

Freedom of Birmingham lies ahead

We now look forward to drill, and more drill, in respect of our 'Freedom March' through the City of Birmingam in September. The parade is to consist of approximately 250 marching all ranks, twelve vehicles, the Corps Band, the White Helmets, plus a contingent of Old Comrades. There will be a small static display of the Regiment's equipment during the afternoon.

Congratulations to **Corporal** and **Mrs. D. Powell** on the birth of a son, David.

We welcome to the fold new arrivals—**Corporal C. Firman** and **Corporal J. L. Doe.**

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34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

Blandford Celebrations

A DETACHMENT from the Regiment, under **Major Jim Malcolm,** attended the Corps Celebrations at Blandford. They took with them, for the Royal Signals T.A.V.R. display, a number of items of historical interest, which included two Freedom Scrolls (Leeds and Teesside), an 18-inch silver Signalman, made by an ex-member of the Regiment, **Major Richard Crosthwaite,** and a map of Europe, made and presented by a past C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. Irwin.** The map shows the travels of 49th and 50th Divisions during 1939-45 and the medals awarded for the campaigns. Also on display was a board showing every Commanding Officer's name of the present Regiment's predecessor units back to 1861.

Catterick Celebrations

A strong detachment of officers and their ladies—over 50 of them—attended the Royal Signals Ball at Catterick, and just managed to change from mess kit in time for work the following morning. At the Corps Weekend, Old Comrades were out in force and were pleased to see our band take part in the Royal Signals 'At Home' display. It was all very enjoyable and tremendously successful, and all who attended complimented the Training Brigade on the administrative arrangements made. However, we are sure that Catterick Officers will echo the sentiment expressed by one very tired and pallid officer who said "I don't think I could stand this more often than once every 50 years!"

Training, too . . .

Training must go on, and apart from Squadron weekends at Leeds, Darlington and Middlesbrough, two specialised weekends were held at Darlington. One was a junior officer two-day discussion of Signals tactics, at which we were pleased to welcome **Colonel R. Carr-Ellison,** the Territorial Colonel. The second weekend was devoted to Comcen Officers and Sergeants, in preparation for annual camp. This, incidentally, is at Lydd, in Kent, from 22nd August to 5th September, and not Crowborough, as previously announced.

New Commanding Officer

We are sure that all Volunteers will be interested to know that **Major R. M. Stewart,** the Volunteer Second-in-Command of the Regiment will take over from **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans** in the autumn, and will wish to congratulate him.

Captain Cedric Platt and Corporal Ken Naylor of 49 (WR) Squadron on exercise

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)
Wanstead

Camp through the eyes of a Lance-Corporal

AFTER twelve months of eager anticipation, the time had finally arrived for our annual excursion, away from the disorderly shambles of civilian life, into that well-publicised, well-organised, and well-tried existence called soldiering. Armed with our new-found aura of professionalism, 36th Signal Regiment descended on Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, for the 1970 T.A.V.R. camp. We arrived on that fateful day in June fully aware of what to expect, since the 1969 camp had been spent at Scarborough. However, as usual, the best laid plans of mice and men . . . . !

Soon after our arrival, we formed up outside the M.I. Room, Squadron by Squadron, for what we thought were to be our vitamin and glucose tablets; after all, most of us had been on night-shift since arrival. One by one we filed in, to be greeted by "Cough, please" and "roll up your sleeve." Vigorous protests that we'd had our injection last year were greeted by the customary chortles of glee from the 'Dart Champions.'

The regular routine of morning walkies and formation dancing soon began, and it was quite evident that the R.S.M. was in his usual benign mood. In fact, it was quite surprising the effect his painstaking coaching and gentle persuasion had; the parades gradually progressed to a standard that would have been a credit to Victor Sylvester.

Resplendent in our best bibs

Parade day soon arrived, and off we trooped, resplendent in our best bibs and tuckers, and to the accompaniment of glorious sunshine and martial music, we gave our usual polished performance. The remarks afterwards by the Inspecting Officer that we would give the Brigade of Guards a lesson were later, to our disappointment, explained to mean the Home Guard and Boys' Brigade.

On Monday of the second week came the annual endurance test, better known as the four-day exercise, and for those of us lucky enough to be in 754 Troop, a special treat was in store. Our usually reliable reconnaissance officer had sorted out a most unusual location—a disused railway station—which he stated categorically had been totally uninhabited for the past 15 years. Well, as you can guess, when we arrived, the demolition men were at work and the place was ablaze. Not to be outdone, an alternative grid reference was soon found. This turned out to be a veritable paradise—an abandoned farm, complete with hot and cold and flush toilets. Some of the cynics wanted to know why this couldn't have been the original choice, but it was explained that professionals never take the easy way out.

The temporary interruption of our holiday was soon over, and on the Thursday we arrived back in barracks, perhaps a little weary, but happy with the thought of another two nights of Scarborough's ample entertainment.

On the Friday, our final day, various sports and competitions were soon being eagerly contested. The R.S.M. expressed his disappointment at the lack of enthusiasm shown in some of the competitions, namely, cross-country running and orienteering, but as we in 54 Squadron pointed out, no facilities for our particular expertise were available, viz. darts and dominoes. Furthermore, suitable training areas had been placed out of bounds during the exercise.

On the Friday afternoon the Commanding Officer gave his final address, he thanked us for convincing the various visitors (or should I say deluding) how proficient we were. He sympathised with the officers (well, it had been a great strain) and finally congratulated the Permanent Staff on having the good fortune to serve in such a Regiment, where they could learn so much.

Well, the 1970 camp had finished. Without exception, we had enjoyed a most successful and highly rewarding two weeks, with perhaps a tinge of sadness, we all went home, all with but one thought—roll on next year!

Camp—the official version

So that is how our 15 days in Scarborough looked through

READY FOR YOUR INSPECTION SIR . . .
Lieutenant Zoe Page W.R.A.C. (54 Squadron) reports to the Honorary Colonel (Sir Derek Greenaway). Right marker: Staff-Sergeant R. Rogers W.R.A.C. (44 Squadron)

A TRICKY POINT?
Left to right: The Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway), W.O.II (S.S.M.) Gray (45 Squadron), Major P. J. Hart (O.C. 45 Squadron), Captain W. I. M. Allan (O.C. 817 Radio Relay Troop), Brigadier A. J. Jackson (Commander 12 Signal Group), Major-General R. H. Whitworth (Chief of Staff Southern Command), Captain D. J. Thorpe (Second-in-Command 45 Squadron)

the eyes of **Lance-Corporal Harrison,** of 54 Squadron. From the more formalised atmosphere of R.H.Q., we should, perhaps, fill in a few more details. The first week was taken up largely with trade training, organised by **Major Ron Fletcher** and **W.O.II L. Tucker,** whilst at the same time, 14 members of the Regiment were attending courses at the Training Brigade, Catterick. (Another 40 attended courses at other times). This effort resulted in 79 men and women passing a Class III or II trade test. As an innovation, our recruits' course lasted for the whole 15 days, with four spent in the field in the second week, and included night firing, patrols and internal security drills. 29 recruits took part. **Lieutenant R. James** (54 Squadron), **Sergeant Braithwaite** (P.S.I., 45 Squadron) and **Sergeant Lewis** (H.Q. Squadron) were among those responsible for a very successful course, at the conclusion of which they mounted a very creditable passing-out parade, taken by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway.**

During the first week we were delighted that **Brigadier The Hon. Dame Mary Anderson,** Director, W.R.A.C., visited us, accompanied by **Colonel Jane Rankin,** D.D.W.R.A.C., Southern Command. This was certainly a highlight for the girls; the Director spoke to everyone of them in the course of their normal duties. She also met the Police Cadets, and perhaps their presence requires some explanation. It is part of the three-year cadetship for these young women to take part in various activities and attachments to meet people in all walks of life. The Durham Constabulary sought an attachment to our Regiment, which we willingly accepted. The girls were great value; they took part in our training, sporting and social activities and helped to man our communication centres in the exercise during the second week.

Another corporate attachment which was very welcome was that of the Band of the Yorkshire Volunteers. They gave a very accomplished concert one evening and, together with our Corps of Drums, took part in the rehearsals of and the actual parade for our Honorary Colonel, **Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., D.L.** This year the parade was held on Sunday morning, followed immediately by a drumhead service, at which our Chaplain, the **Rev. Jack Wardle,** officiated. This, too, was made all the more stimulating by the presence of the band.

The four-day exercise was aimed at practising our role, and included movement to increase the training value. We were grateful to local landowners for making available some excellent and realistic sites and were grateful, too, for some excellent weather, both factors contributing towards firm communications and high morale.

We were delighted to welcome to our exercise **Major-General R. H. Whitworth, C.B., C.B.E.** (Chief of Staff, Southern Command). He visited elements of all Squadrons and talked to many Volunteers. He showed great interest in all aspects of the exercise and we were much encouraged by his visit.

Other visitors included **Colonel J. R. Gordon** (Col-GS VT Directorate MOD Army), **Colonel G. R. A. Wixley, O.B.E., T.D.,** Vice-Chairman, Greater London T. & A.V.R.A., and **Colonel B. R. M. Hayles,** C.S.O., Northern Command.

Brigadier A. J. Jackson, Commander, 12th Signal Group, visited us on two occasions and we were very glad to have him with us.

40th Ulster
Signal Regt. (V)
Belfast

Irish spirit

BELFAST'S City transport grinds to a standstill following another night of violence and bloodshed in the streets. Will anyone turn up for training to a centre where war-like Regulars occupy classrooms and canteen? The Volunteers stream in, some having walked five miles in civilian clothes, carrying their uniforms with them, and at roll call there's many more than average, which shows that in these times of trouble, with all our difficulties, the spirit of the Regiment has never been higher.

Recruiting

One proof of this is the result of our recent recruiting campaign. The Regimental team were active every weekend, visiting Belfast, Ballymoney and Lurgan. The W.R.A.C. element enjoyed themselves, even though they were disappointed that even with their charm, they were unable to persuade four Scots, over for a football match, and three members of the Eire Army, on leave, to join us. In addition to the team, everyone in the Regiment played their part, and we were able to ask **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** the 12th Signal Group Commander, to present a tankard to our 100th recruit of 1970 on his recent visit. The lucky man was **Recruit N. Doherty,** ex-Irish Guards, who joins his brother, **Corporal Doherty,** and his sister, **Private Glynis Doherty,** W.R.A.C., in the Regiment.

Congratulations, also, to **Signalman M. K. Magill,** who won the Regimental recruiting competition, and has just returned with his fiancée from his trip to London, which included tickets for the Trooping of the Colour.

Visits

During our annual range course weekend at Ballykinlar, where everyone qualified on their own weapon and the S.L.R., we were honoured by a visit by **Major-General T. H. Acton, C.B.E.,** the Deputy Army Commander, Northern Ireland. He

spoke to many members of the Regiment who, when they were not actually shooting, were engaged on field, weapon and driving training, in addition to learning all about the Mobat from the resident Battalion.

Brigadier A. J. Jackson had splendid weather for his visit, the highlight of which was a Regimental parade and march past, with the Band of the North Irish Horse keeping us all in step.

He presented the 1st and 2nd clasp to the T.A. Efficiency Medal to **Sergeant J. O'Brien**, R.A.P.C., and admired the trophy won by **Signalman Waggot** at the Boxing Championships at the White City, London.

The Brigadier was accompanied by **Colonel John McCann,** the Regimental Honorary Colonel, who assisted him in the pass out of the longest-running of our four recruits' courses.

Colonel McCann also visited the Regimental Rifle Team during their training for the T.A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley, and with the aid of the C.O.'s rifle, scored two bulls and three inners at 500 yards—these monocles are wonderful things!

SOMETHING TO ADMIRE

Left to right: Staff Sergeant Jimmy O'Brien, R.A.P.C., 100th Recruit N. Doherty, Signalman Waggot, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Hall, Major M. L. Baker, Colonel J. McCann, Brigadier A. J. Jackson, at Clonaver Park, Belfast admiring Signalman Waggot's T.A.V.R. boxing trophy

Departures and arrivals

Major Norman Baker hands over the duties of Training Major this month to **Major Graham Campbell,** who comes hot-foot from Singapore. Norman has served Royal Signals for 27 years, and in his short time with us has put his experience to good use. He leaves with all our best wishes for his new career as a schoolmaster.

We shall also miss the quick wit and lively views of O.C. H.Q. Squadron, **Major Dudley Farrar,** who is retiring after 19 years as a volunteer in the R.A., Intelligence Corps and Royal Signals.

Captain Ron McClatchey and **Staff Sergeant Jackie Tosh** have left us, because of pressure of work, and **Sergeant Bill Ewings,** after 33 years' service, retires, having just reached the age limit (or was that last year?).

To fill the gaps, we welcome **Lieutenant Adrian Scott,** just back from America; **Officer Cadets Mitchell, Simpson, McLaughlin** and **Bannon,** also **Lieutenant Linda Squance,** W.R.A.C., who is a very welcome addition to our fair sex.

Other activities

Despite the restrictions, we have been out on Regimental and Squadron exercises, and held a successful trade board. The results of recent inspections, covering telecommunication equipment, vehicles and plant, documents, fire and instruments, have been really good and reflect great credit upon the Permanent Staff and Volunteers, particularly as no training time was lost during the preparations.

All this, and we still have camp to look forward to, with our 81st Squadron joining us for four days, to compare the delights of Scarborough with their experiences in Cyprus.

SAILING

As Skywave completes a successful sailing season — a second yacht for the Corps

THE TWO CORPS YACHTS—SKYWAVE AND QUICKSILVER berthed alongside at Marchwood. Both these yachts are open for charter and details are given in the article following

Off-shore Sailing in Southern England

THE Royal Signals Yacht Club's boat *Skywave*—a Nicholson 32—has completed one successful season since her launching in March, 1969, and is now well into her second. During the 1969/70 winter maintenance period she was refitted for R.O.R.C. racing and equipped with a spinnaker (in Corps Colours) and additional safety gear. Her bosun, **Corporal Kehoe,** put in a lot of work to ensure that she was in immaculate condition and ready for her first charter by 26th March. She was the first of the Army boats at Marchwood to be put into the water—a creditable effort!

Marchwood—the military port on the west bank of Southampton Water

Marchwood, by the way, is a military port on the west bank of Southampton Water, opposite the docks. It is the main port of embarkation for vehicles and troops bound for Northern Ireland. 16 Port Regiment, R.C.T. run the port, but the Army yachts are administered by the Royal Engineer Driving School, to which the bosuns are attached. The situation is ideal for off-shore sailing. The quayside has deep water at all states of the tide and is only eight miles up Southampton Water from the Solent, which itself provides excellent sheltered sailing and has many unspoiled harbours and creeks. For the more adventurous sailors, the Solent is the starting point for a Channel crossing (average crossing time to Cherbourg, 16 hours) or a voyage along the S.W. coast to attractive places such as Salcombe, Falmouth and the Scilly Islands.

Skywave has already crossed the Channel a number of times this season, and later on she will be racing in the Cowes-Dinard Race and the Channel Race.

The new yacht—'Quicksilver'

Because of the popularity of *Skywave,* there has been considerable lobbying for a second Corps yacht to be based at Marchwood, the aim being to cater for family cruising and intermediate training between dinghy sailing and offshore racing. The stalwart efforts of the Commodore, **Brigadier Brindley,** and others at the Ministry of Defence, have met with success, and the yacht, a brand new six-berth Westerly Tiger named *Quicksilver* was launched at Marchwood on 20th May. There was no official launching ceremony on this occasion, but the new bosun, **Corporal Carmichael,** had a mixed bag of Gunner, Sapper and R.C.T. bosuns aboard, and between them much beer was consumed!

The official ceremony was to be a viewing by members of the Corps at the Royal Signals Regatta at Seaview on 9th and 10th June. Her crew on the trip to Seaview included **Brigadier Cubberley** (Commandant, School of Signals), **Colonel Maunsell** (Commandant, DADPTC), **Major Adams** (the yachtmaster) and **Corporal Carmichael.** *Quicksilver* was duly made available for viewing by all ranks present at the regatta, and impressed many by her apparent good value for money. The Commodore took her for a sail in the Solent and bravely allowed himself to be cast off in the dinghy to take photographs of her.

Quicksilver is now ready for charter and will start her charter life by going to north eastern waters for the benefit of soldiers in Catterick. She will probably spend part of each season up in this area, but is expected to return to her berth alongside *Skywave* for winter maintenance.

If you are interested in chartering a yacht . . .

For those interested in chartering either yacht, the cost per day is £6, which compares favourably with civilian rates. Furthermore, if arrangements are made in sufficient time, adventure training funds can be allotted to subsidise the cost, wholly or in part.

Inevitably, the Royal Signals Yacht Club demands some qualifications from those who take charge of its yachts. The minimum qualification for the skipper of a charter is second mate (ASA rating), and with this qualification the yacht may only be sailed 'Within the Wight.' For more ambitious charters the skipper must have a first mate's rating and a more experienced crew. Each yacht has a bosun, and both hold second mate ratings. So, anyone who is not fully qualified, but would like to arrange a charter in the Solent may ask for the bosun to be made available as skipper. There is now no reason why any member of the Corps in England should not be able to arrange a charter if he wishes. It is, however, necessary to plan well ahead, for *Skywave* is now booked for the rest of the season and *Quicksilver* up until the end of August, but she is still available in September and October (at the time of writing).

For full details of availability of yachts and qualifications needed by crews get in touch with **Major B. W. P. Adams,** Traffic Group, the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset. (Telephone Blandford 2581, ext. 244).

Royal Signals Yacht Club (Germany) Jubilee Regatta

CORPS (B.A.O.R.) WIN TRIANGULAR TROPHY

June and July have been busy months for Corps sailors.

For the Jubilee Dinghy Regatta held at the Mohne See Sailing Club from 24th to 26th June, 1970, there were 36 entries. In fact, 30 helmsman and crews actually turned up on the day so it was an encouraging turnout. As the clubs fleet of Bosuns was only 24 the helmsmen were divided into three groups of 10 for the individual competition. In each race two of the groups sailed together. All helmsmen sailed in four races and hence three long races were sailed on each of the first two days.

These two days provided some excellent sailing with good winds and no rain. The committee, chaired by **Colonel Bardell,** were rarely called upon to arbitrate over protests!

After the fifth place in his first race **Major Hartnett,** crewed by his wife, secured three wins to take the individual championship. The runner-up was **Lance-Corporal Mitchell,** crewed by **Corporal Moore.** The prizes for novices went to **Lieutenant Stuart** (crewed by **Sergeant Smith**), who was the best 'C' helmsman, very closely followed by **Second-Lieutenant Kirby** (crew, **Signalman Smith**).

It was an interesting two days and particularly gratifying to see young helmsman attacking the more experienced ones at the front of the fleet. **Lieutenant Barnes** (crew, **Lance-Corporal Swaile**) and **Lance-Corporal Parrotte** (crew, **Lance-Corporal Whittaker**) to mention but two.

The third day of the regatta was sunny and windless and under those conditions the committee were somewhat pressed to complete the team racing programme of eight races. We were all pleased to see **Major General** and **Mrs. Horsfield** relaxing with binoculars on the lakeside and they appeared to approve of the weather rather more than did the sailors!

For the 'umpteenth' year in succession, 7th Signal Regiment, their three boats being steered by **Foreman of Signals Kitchen, Lance-Corporals Parrotte** and **Mitchell,** won the team event. 4th Division Signal Regiment were the losing finalists having won their semi-final on a protest against 1st Division Signal Regiment.

The regatta ended with **Mrs. Horsfield** presenting the prizes to winning teams, individuals and crews.

Triangular regatta

The team selected to defend the Triangular Trophy on behalf of the Corps against the Gunners and Sappers was **Lieutenant-Colonel Cooper (Corporal Mold), Major Hartnett (Lieutenant Stuart), Captain Collins (Second-Lieutenant Kirby)** and **Foreman of Signals Kitchen (Lance-Corporal Mitchell).**

Strong winds, frequent storms and choppy water provided the committee (**Colonel Bardell** was our representative) and spectators with excitement and interest. The Sailors did not find it quite so amusing. In assessing the teams, the Gunners had a steady team, but did not appear to get involved in many team tactics. The Sappers had some helmsmen able to sail quickly, but seemed to be easily put off when 'attacked.' Our team was experienced and always ready to help a team mate 'fairly' past an opponent.

On the first day we beat both the Gunners and the Sappers and felt reasonably happy. The Sappers had beaten the Gunners and so the result of the Triagular was likely to depend on our second encounter with the Sappers. As far as speed was concerned, the Sappers looked confident in that match, but their weakness was exposed by **Foreman Kitchen,** and that match, and indeed the whole Triangular, was won and lost in the committee room. As so much was at stake, an entirely Gunner committee sat to consider the protest. Sighs of relief and looks of anger greeted the decision, which came down in our favour. So we retained the Triangular Trophy, some might say, in spite of **Major Hartnett,** who capsized twice and lost his crew overboard once, in two days!

Foreman Kitchen's own sailing and his captaincy of the team was excellent. He did not relax until he was collecting the trophy at the end of an enjoyable, exciting, and action-filled regatta.

CORPS GOLF

The Captain, in a mid-season report, writes:

Despite the bad weather in March, which resulted in our match against the Staff College being abandoned, Corps golfers are enjoying a good season so far. All four matches played have been won, and details are as follows:

v.	R.M.A. at North Hants.	Won	6—1
v.	York G.C. at Strensall G.C.	Won	5—1
v.	R.E. at Hankley Common	Won	7—5
v.	R.C.T. at North Hants	Won	5—4

At the Army Meeting at St. Andrew's in May, the Corps Team reached the final of the Ordnance Cup, when we were defeated by R.A. (No. 1 Team) in what proved to be a very close contest, decided on the last 18 holes of the last match. On our way to the final we knocked out R.E.M.E., R.C.T., R.A. (No. 2 Team).

In the Army individual championship, **Signalman Carveth,** a scratch player, doing his basic training in the Training Brigade, came fourth, a most creditable performance.

The Corps Spring Meeting in the south was held at Woking G.C. on 24th March, having been postponed from 10th March because of snow. The 36-hole scratch open championship was won by **Major R. G. Carroll** (156). In the north, a well-attended two-day Spring Meeting was held at Catterick Garrison on 21st/22nd May. The 36-hole scratch trophy was won by **Signalman Carveth.**

Finally, at the British Amateur Championship, at Royal County Down, Newcastle, Co. Down, from 30th May to 6th June, the Northern Ireland Signal Squadron provided the communications during the week, and Royal Signals received generous acclaim from the large crowd at the final presentation. Perhaps we may go one better and have a competitor next year? (**Carroll** and **Carveth** to note!).

I SQUADRON 9th REGIMENT ATHLETICS TEAM—CYPRUS CHAMPIONS 1970

Back row: Corporal Bob Mills, Signalman George Poulter, Sergeant Del Wells, Private George Hewitt, Sergeant Bob Hope, Private George Anderson, Sergeant John Morgan, Corporal Dave Kelly, Captain Hugh Bonaker

Front row: Corporal John Robertson, Corporal Pete Ellis, Corporal 'Ginge' Jerram, Private 'Paddy' Keogh, Corporal Jeff Davison, C.S.M.I. Glyn Morris, Sergeant Bill Duncan, Staff-Sergeant 'Geordie' Sleightholm

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24	1214	„ „
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September-October 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

The Official Organ of the Royal Signals Association

Editor :
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Assistant Editor :
Mr. L. Wood

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 9**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

The Royal Signals Canoe Club goes from strength to strength. Apart from many competition successes the U.K. Headquarters at Blandford, under **Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Painter,** has gone in for the manufacture on a 'do-it-yourself' basis of canoes for which there is a considerable demand. This demand comes, not only from Corps units, but schools and youth clubs as well. Our picture shows a production run of boats built for Sherborne School C.C.F. and in the photograph, left to right, are: **Corporal Bull,** an Officer from Sherborne C.C.F., **Lieutenant M. E. Harrison** (Corps Team Captain) and **Lance-Corporal Story. Corporal Bull** and **Lance-Corporal Story** can be described as the 'master builders' of this go-ahead enterprise. **SEE RESOUNDING SUCCESS STORY ON PAGE 440.**

What your support to the day's pay scheme means in practical terms

We are happy to give below an outline of how the Army Benevolent Fund has been able to help the serving or ex-serving soldier during 1969/70.

The Royal Signals Association plays its full part in this most worthwhile and, indeed, essential work. In 1969, the Association made grants totalling £10,145 to help 606 cases of serving or retired members of the Corps who found themselves in difficulties. In addition, 548 clothing parcels worth in all at least £3,000, were sent out to those in need.

Donations to other charitable organisations amounted to £6,640, of which £6,000 went to the Army Benevolent Fund. They, in turn, helped us with loans amounting in all to £7,825 to assist serving soldiers coming out of the Service to set up home civilian life, plus grants totalling £995 for cases requiring major assistance beyond our normal scope.

SUMMARY OF ARMY BENEVOLENCE—1969/70

£665,000 was spent in relief work, against £635,000 in 1968/69.

£207,700 was paid to serving soldiers against their terminal grants towards the end of their service, to enable them to prepare for return to civilian life.

This makes a total for Army Benevolent work for the year of £872,700. Below is a summary of this work.

HELP TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

THE EX-SOLDIER

The number of cases of need and distress amongst ex-soldiers and their dependants, dealt with by Corps and Regimental Associations in 1969/70, not covered by State Welfare was 25,760. GRANTS made by CORPS and REGIMENTS and THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND in direct support of this work came to £375,800.

THE EX-OFFICER

The number of cases of help given to ex-officers and their dependants in 1969/70 was 1,892. GRANTS made by the A.B.F. in the name of CORPS and REGIMENTS to the OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION in support of these cases, and to the OFFICERS' FAMILIES FUND and S.S.A.F.A. for similar work connected with widows and dependants amounted to £38,650.

THE EX-SOLDIER OVERSEAS

The number of cases of help given to ex-soldiers and their dependants in need, domiciled overseas was 750. GRANTS made by the A.B.F. in the name of Corps and Regiments, through the British Commonwealth Ex-Service League, to help towards these cases totalled £11,500.

CASE WORK ORGANISATION

GRANTS made by the A.B.F. to those National Service Charities concerned with investigation and assistance in Army case work: To S.S.A.F.A., £24,500. To Forces Help Society, £14,000. To British Legion, Scotland, £1,500. To British Legion, Ireland, £1,000.

(Continued on next page)

EMPLOYMENT

GRANTS made by the A.B.F. to the REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION to help in the resettlement and placing of 5,673 soldiers and ex-soldiers in employment in 1969/70, £21,200. GRANT made to the OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION for similar work in connection with officers, £5,000.

THE CHILDREN

BURSARIES. THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL BURSARIES for ex-soldiers' CHILDREN IN NEED, maintained by the A.B.F. in 1969/70 with priority to orphans, children with one parent only, or from broken homes, was 202. GRANTS made by the A.B.F. in support of this work and to Schools and Homes concerned with the care and upbringing of children was £29,200. HOLIDAYS. The number of ex-soldiers' children in need, who received a seaside holiday in 1969/70, accompanied by one parent, mainly widows, or guardian, was 234. GRANTS made by the A.B.F. in support of this work totalled £1,850.

THE ELDERLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES. The total number of supplementary allowances of 10/- to £1 a week, maintained by the A.B.F. through Corps and Regiments in 1969/70 for aged EX-SOLDIERS and THEIR DEPENDANTS to sustain them in their declining years; to the DISABLED AND PERMANENTLY SICK; to the DEPENDANT PARENTS of soldiers killed or disabled on duty was 628. The cost of this priority work was £28,800. GRANTS TO 12 NATIONAL HOMES AND CENTRES CARING FOR AGED SOLDIERS AND THEIR WIVES IN THE EVENING OF THEIR LIVES totalled £17,000.

THE DISABLED

GRANTS TO 14 NATIONAL HOMES AND CENTRES DEALING WITH THE CARE AND TRAINING OF THE DISABLED, TOTALLED £25,600.

HELP TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL SERVING

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND CHILDREN

THE SOLDIERS' WIDOWS FUND—a separate Trust formed in 1964—provides for the immediate needs of widows and dependant children of Regular Soldiers who subscribe to the Fund, and die while serving on a Regular Army Engagement. 96 per cent of married soldier strength have joined. THE NUMBER OF WIDOWS receiving basic grants, initially of £600, and later £750, in 1969, was 71. THE TOTAL MONEY spent on this was £45,600.

SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS

THE SINGLE SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS FUND—also a separate trust, formed in 1968—provides for the immediate needs of the specified dependent(s) of the single soldier, who subscribes to the Fund and dies while serving on a Regular engagement. 30 per cent of single soldier strength have joined, and new members are enrolling at the rate of 1,200 a month. THE NUMBER OF DEPENDANTS receiving basic grants of initially £350, then £450 and later £600 and in 1969 was 15. THE TOTAL MONEY spent on this was £6,400.

COMPASSIONATE GRANTS

THE NUMBER OF CASES OF COMPASSIONATE help to soldiers and their families, faced with actual or potential problems, not of their own making, in 1969/70, was 46. THE TOTAL GRANTS made by the A.B.F. to Corps and Regimental Associations in support of this work totalled £6,400.

RESETTLEMENT LOANS

THE NUMBER OF COMPASSIONATE, INTEREST FREE LOANS made to soldiers approaching the end of their service, against the security of their Terminal Grants, to assist them in resettlement, and in the setting-up of a home, house purchase and furnishing, was 418. THESE LOANS, made by the A.B.F. through Corps and Regimental Associations totalled £207,700.

THE NEW PAY CODE

Recent changes in Army pay have stepped up the amount received by the Corps through the Day's Pay Scheme, and the greater part of this is passed on to the Association for our own welfare work. What is not required for our own needs goes to the Army Benevolent Fund, and to mark our Jubilee Year, the Central Committee of the Association authorised a donation of £9,00 for 1970. At the foot of this editorial we publish a letter of appreciation received from General Sir Reginald Hewetson, Chairman of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Some will question the donation of such large sums as this to the Army Benevolent Fund and whether it is necessary for the individual to contribute so much. The answer is that the calls on the Army Benevolent Fund increase every year as the cost of living goes up, as also does the age and infirmity of those who fought in two world wars. At the same time, as the memory of these wars fade, support from public appeals is starting to fall off. Thus, the Army Benevolent Fund is faced with increased costs and falling income. This gap can only be bridged by what the Army produces from its own resources—the Day's Pay Scheme. It follows that our support is needed more than ever and both the Adjutant General and the President of the Army Benevolent Fund will be enlarging on this subject in separate letters in the next few months.

In the meantime, we hope that all who have so generously contributed to the Day's Pay Scheme will continue to do so, and those who have not yet joined it will start to subscribe in the near future.

THE EXAMPLES ABOVE SHOW WHAT A FINE JOB YOUR SUPPORT IS DOING KEEP IT UP

From the Chairman, The Army Benevolent Fund

"I have just heard of the magnificent cheque for £9,000, which the Royal Signals Association has sent to the Army Benevolent Fund to mark the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the formation of the Corps.

Field-Marshal Sir Richard Hull, as President of the Fund would, I know, himself have written to express his deep gratitude to you for this remarkable support, but he is away until next month, and I now write on his behalf. I will, of course, inform him on his return.

The support the Fund receives from the Royal Signals is quite outstanding in the Army for the size of the Corps and is a record of which you can justly be proud. The Fund, for its part, is indeed most grateful, and I would ask that you convey to your Central Committee the full measure of our appreciation."

WIRE CORRESPONDENTS

—Please keep your unit notes down to essentials.
—Please submit black and white photos, NOT coloured ones, for the text.

A Farewell Tribute

MAJOR-GENERAL M. D. PRICE, C.B., O.B.E.

RETIRES THIS MONTH

Born in 1915, the son of E. Allen Price, Esq., of Dartmouth, David Price was educated at Marlborough and the 'Shop.' He was commissioned into the Corps in 1935.

After two years in 3rd Divisional Signals he was posted to Malaya Signal Company in 1938. In 1940 he was appointed A.C.S.O. Malaya Command and adviser to the forces of the Sultan of Johore.

When Singapore fell, David Price and George Flynn, who shared an office, trudged out to Changi Gaol, carrying as many of their belongings as they could. Already in Changi were 'Gibbo' Giblin, Tim Pope, Tommy Scott, and other well-known Corps officers.

At first, David Price commanded a Company of Signalmen, but gradually became a general duty commander. However, he found time to assist in other ways, such as holding items for the construction of illicit radios.

After 15 months, crowded in the gaol, half-a-dozen to a cell, the P.O.W.s were glad to hear a Japanese announcement that, entirely in their own interests, a force of 7,000 P.O.W.s, British and Australian, would move from Changi to a healthy camp in Thailand, where there would be better food, a canteen, and no work. Electric light plants would be taken and, if desired, band instruments. There was to be no marching, so the 30 per cent sick men could easily go, too.

After a five-day journey, thirty bodies per 17ft. x 7ft. rail truck, the force reached Bampong, in Thailand, where disillusionment began. After being serched for torches and anything else which could be useful, the force, leaving its 15 truck loads of stores in the station, started marching—a march of 300 km. in 15 stages. There was no cover when resting, poor food, and little water. In one place water even had to be paid for. Medical stores were soon exhausted, and dysentry, diarrhoea, malaria and chronic ulcers became common. The sick had to be carried. At one stage cholera was encountered among the Thai labour force and this dreaded disease now attacked Force 'F.'

The object was to build the Burma-Siam Railway, of 'River Kwai' infamy. Working camps were roofless, atap coolie shelters; not enough men were left in camp to improve conditions and deal with hygiene and messing; tools were insufficient. Out of 5,000 men in one sector, there were at one time only 700 fit to work. The sick received half an already inadequate ration, on the assumption that starvation would soon cure them.

David Price reached Tambya, on the Dawna Range, in Tenasserim, just short of Moulmein. Tambya was designated a hospital for 'F' Force, to accommodate 2,000 sick, who were moved there by rail—54 to a truck. The hospital consisted of coolie huts with bamboo sleeping racks. Some cholera vaccine and some quinine were the only medical stores. Ulcers were dressed with banana leaves, sleeves off old shirts and strips of mosquito netting. David Price was Adjutant of this so-called hospital, and later became its commander. He was tireless in his efforts to better the lot of the miserable patients; some were so depressed that they crept out into the jungle to die in peace. Many owe their lives to him, and for his work he was later awarded the M.B.E.

'F' Force had left Changi on 28th April, 1943, with a strength of 7,000. When it returned on 28th April, 1944, it had left behind 3,090 dead. In one camp, out of 132 Signalmen, 95 died, including four officers. Not until 31st August, 1945, did help come, in the form of two M.O.S. and two orderlies, who arrived in Changi by parachute. By then many more had died.

In 1949, David Price joined the D.S. at Camberley. After a period in 11th Armoured Divisional Signals, B.A.O.R., he was appointed A.Q.M.G. in Egypt in 1954. His tour in this post included the period of the withdrawal of the British Army from Egypt to Cyprus, and for his work in this connection, he was awarded the O.B.E. From 1956-59 he commanded 3rd Signal Regiment.

When promoted Brigadier in 1963, as C.S.O., Eastern Command, he was serving on the British Army Staff at Washington. His ability as an administrator was by now recognised, and in 1966 he became Director of Administrative Planning in the M.O.D. Finally, in 1967, he was promoted Major-General and was appointed Vice-Quartermaster-General. He retires on 21st September, having been awarded the C.B.

General Price was appointed a Colonel Commandant in 1967 and is 'Representative' for 1970. We shall therefore be seeing something of him and will benefit from his wisdom for some time yet. However, such a capable administrator, wise adviser and friendly leader must be missed, as will 'Bunty,' his charming wife.

VISIT OF THE SOUTHERN CENTRE OF THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS TO THE SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

ON Saturday, 11th July, members of the Southern Centre of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, together with wives and guests, totalling in all about 120, visited the School of Signals at the invitation of the Commandant, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** who is himself a member of the Institution.

After driving through the pleasant Dorset countryside, in glorious sunshine, to Blandford Camp, members were refreshed with morning coffee on arrival in the Corps Museum. This was followed by a formal welcome and a brief introduction to the School by the Commandant in Princess Mary Hall.

The party then divided into groups of manageable size for a tour of the School. This was conducted with true military precision so that everyone saw everything without congestion or queueing. Each group saw some of the communication equipment which will shortly be introduced into the service, incorporating techniques of the coming decade, with high reliability, and reduced weight and size. In other buildings the groups were shown modern visual teaching aids covering basic communications theory and the use of closed circuit television to demonstrate points in detail to students in a large class. This was followed by talks on modern communication systems and a chance to view mobile communication facilities built into a number of vehicle containers. Groups also visited the Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre and were shown how service and government civilian personnel are trained in computer techniques, and some of the military applications of ADP.

After this most impressive tour, arranged and demonstrated by members of the Corps (most of whom were also members of the Institute) the groups re-formed and were entertained in H.Q. Mess, prior to lunch. After lunch, the Centre Chairman, **Doctor E. E. Ward,** in thanking **Brigadier Cubberley** for allowing the Centre to visit the School, said he was sure that the spirit of co-operation which had been built up between the School and the Western Area of the I.E.E., within whose boundaries the School was situated, would continue to grow.

Another 1970 Corps Success!

7th Regiment Win B.A.O.R. Parachute and Patrol Competition

This is an annual military team parachute and patrol competition, which provides soldiers who have qualified as either military or sport parachutists, the opportunity to display their skills in an interesting, enjoyable and challenging competition.

Two trophies are awarded, one the 'Daily Telegraph' Challenge Trophy for the overall winners, and the other, the 'Rothman of Pall Mall' Trophy for the team using the best parachuting techniques.

7th Signal Regiment won the 'Daily Telegraph' Trophy and narrowly missed retaining the Rothman Trophy, which they won last year.

The Officer-in-Charge was **Lieutenant Ian Cross;** the patrol was commanded by **Sergeant Jerry Jarrett,** and the remaining members were **Corporal Donald Robertson, Corporal Roger Burrow, Signalman Derek Hynds** and the reserve **Corporal Brian Smith.**

It was a very satisfying win against, in some cases, professional Infantry/Para teams.

13 Signal Group go to town on a really big exercise

COMMANDERS AND STAFF CONCERNED WITH EXERCISE REDSHOES "II" POSE FOR THE WIRE

This exercise involving four Volunteer Regiments, was most successful and was probably the largest H.F. radio exercise in the U.K. since 1953. *Left to right,* Major A. V. Swindale, B.M., Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull, 32nd Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl, 37th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker, 71st Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel K. R. Gill, T.D., 38th Signal Regiment, Colonel J. M. Wotherspoon, T.D., Deputy Commander, 13 Signal Group, Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E., Commander 13th Signal Group

1970 might be called a vintage year for 13 Signal Group (V) since not only did all four Regiments go to camp at the same time, but Group Headquarters also took to the field. Or was it a field? Well, anyway, the Ernespie Hotel, Castle Douglas, was very comfortable and took on quite a military appearance with a row of D11s at its back and an office vehicle of 1950 vintage parked in the back yard. The Chief Clerk's office, housed in the GII's camping tent, added a certain amount of colour, if not dignity, to the whole set-up.

With Group Headquarters at the helm, Exercise 'Red Shoes II' was devoted to the deployment of the Group from Dingwall to Okehampton in support of a mythical United Nations' task group investigating the habits of an even more mythical 'Land of Nod.' 80 D11s were deployed on a total of 35 circuits. **This was probably the largest HF radio exercise in the U.K. since Exercise 'Surprise Packet' in 1953.**

Three of the four Regiments deployed directly into exercise locations from their T.A. Centres, and communications were open and working for seven days. With many men and women attending courses at the Training Brigade, manning was a problem, but the enthusiasm was such that enough energy remained to beat off attacks by hostile 'Noddite' elements provided by the Training Brigade Royal Signals.

Air travel, too, was very much a Royal Signals affair, since 15 Flight A.A.C., commanded by **Major Keith Wilson,** flew the Commander, the C.-in-C. Southern Command, the S.O.-in-C. and other visitors around the exercise area.

Group Headquarters was reinforced for the exercise by Regimental Liaison Officers, who were admitted to the luxuries and secrets of the Headquarters and then sworn to secrecy in their turn.

The following are Regimental impressions of the exercise.

32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)

The majority of readers of this article will have little or no knowledge of the T. & A.V.R., so it is the more difficult to describe the incredible success of Exercise 'Red Shoes II.'

D-17 months. The Regiment, having previously been equipped with and trained on radio relay and line, was given its United Kingdom Land Forces role, and the first of its HF radios — D13-R234(2), D11-R234 and C11-R210 — were issued.

D-12 months. Annual camp and Exercise 'Red Shoes I' served to highlight some of the problems facing everyone. The need for streamlined procedures covering engineering, message handling and passing traffic; the terrifying shortage of trained volunteers—over 51 per cent with the wrong trade or untrained; the Regiment only recruited to about 75 per cent of establishment, but with a good standard of recruit joining; a proportion of older officers and seniors who had served the Regiment well, but for whom the time had come to step aside and make way for the rising generation; the problem of training volunteers in typing and morse when their out-of-camp training is limited to less than 30 days a year.

D-3 months. The new generation of officers and seniors had taken office, and Group Headquarters were going to have the streamlined procedures ready for us. The frequency requirement had been fed into the Blandford computer. The C.O. had said we would man two D13 duplex and five D11 duplex teleprinter links at Gateway, plus a guard D11 working CW. Impossible! We've only enough trained operators to man two D11s, let alone the D13s and, in any case, we haven't used the D13s on an exercise yet.

D+4 days. As Exercise 'Red Shoes II' draws to a close, the two D13 and five D11 links are solid, passing traffic for over 21 hours in every 24. Through messages at Gateway total nearly 900 in the 24 hours, four times the estimate made at the beginning of the exercise. At Regions, the position is similar—the North Irish Horse, with no fully-qualified comcen operators passed, by a narrow margin, more traffic than any other Regional Squadron.

Everyone (that is, the Volunteers) has been under great

pressure. The Permanent Staff have been sitting on the sidelines, having the greatest difficulty in restraining themselves, wanting to intervene to keep them from going off the rails. But they remained uncommitted, and the Volunteers, learning the hard way, persevered, and now, much to everyone's delight, everything is working. Girls who have never previously lost a night's sleep are now accustomed to doing a twelve-hour night duty without faltering; the Pipes and Drums are now a valued defence and employment platoon, without whom the Gateway could never have functioned; the C.O. and Training Major are having difficulty in realising that the circuits are being manned by Volunteers and not by Regular soldiers.

37th Signal Regiment (V)

37th (Wessex and Welsh) Signal Regiment (V) moved from their static locations direct to their exercise locations on 30th May, and the movement table was a real nightmare.

H.Q. Squadron and 57 Squadron had to move from Bristol and Cheltenham to Okehampton; 43 (Wessex) Squadron had to deploy from Bridgwater and Plymouth to Monmouth, and with a Troop each at Brecon and Worcester; 53 (Welsh) Squadron had a relatively pleasant drive through mid-Wales to Chester, and with a Troop each at Haydock Park and Altcar; 67 (Q.O.W.W.Y.) Squadron had to negotiate the notorious A.38 from Stratford-upon-Avon and Stourbridge to Honiton, with a Troop at Exeter and Yoxter. It is to the credit of these Volunteers that they not only arrived on time, but had no accidents or a single breakdown. No wonder the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Curl,** went to church early on the Sunday.

These scene was set for communications to open on the Sunday, and although Dartmoor was very windy, the Gateway Complex looked very impressive, deployed over an area of some 4,000 by 1,500 yards. During the exercise, the Regiment was visited by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, G.O.C. S.W. District, G.O.C. Wales, Deputy Commander West Midland District, C.S.O. Western Command, D.D.W.R.A.C. H.Q. Southern Command, and not least our own Commander and Deputy Commander, **Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson** and **Colonel J. M. Wotherspoon,** the latter apparently having a great time in the Sergeants' Mess, sampling our special brand of Scotch whisky.

The stories that can be told as a result of the exercise are numerous—typical was the following: The C.O. rang **Major Peter Isaac** and demanded to know why he was not in communication. A quick reply came: "I am not only dealing with frequencies and propagation difficulties, but I have no masts left." "Why?" asked the C.O. "The farmer has sent his bulls to the aerial field, and they had great fun in running through the field and eating the guys and camouflage nets. C.O.'s reply: "I hope they are sick . . . and constipated."

38th Signal Regiment (V)

After weeks of preparation, the Squadrons of the Regiment converged on Milton Bridge Camp, on 30th May, from six different locations in the Midlands, driving distances up to 318 miles in Squadron packets. The following day contained a hectic schedule of all-level briefing, refuelling, the final stores issues. During the early hours of 1st June, the Regiment deployed from Milton Bridge Camp—a veritable armada of 171 vehicles and 427 all ranks, the latter fully briefed, confident and 'raring to go!'

Within six hours, the Regiment had deployed into no less than 13 different field sites, ranging across the Lowlands from Berwick in the east (the Gateway Squadron) to the Wigtonshire coast in the west (the three Regional A.F.H.Q. Troops), with a cluster of Sub-Regional Troops roughly in the middle, in the Dumfries - Thornhill valley. We were determined to 'do it for real,' and consequently every individual Troop Commander had his 'own kingdom,' tactically sited on private land, and completely independent from the view-points of communications, defence and administration. Add to that the facts that the majority of Troops included a small W.R.A.C. contingent, and that none of the sites offered convenient standbys in the form of huts or other civilised amenities, and one begins to appreciate the quality of the 'Quartermaster's Miracle,' which succeeded in making every Troop self-sufficient in transport, tentage and field stores for a protracted exercise.

No sooner in location than the aerial masts began to go up. Within a matter of hours, the Gateway site, on the coast, south of Berwick, resembled a mini-Daventry in a holiday camp setting—apart from the camouflage! However, we didn't have much time to admire the scenery during the first 48 hours, as we had to concentrate on the task of establishing and remoting FST duplex communications on D11s and D13s right down the Regimental chain and to the Gateways of 32nd and 37th Regiments on our flanks. Despite initial difficulties with frequencies, we began the exercise proper at mid-day on 3rd June, with most of our circuits 'green,' and succeeded in keeping them that way during most of the four long days and nights which followed.

That this 'best' was indeed something to be proud of was confirmed by the many senior visiting officers who came to see us during the exercise. These included **General Sir Michael Carver,** who spent a busy day visiting the Gateway and Troops of 64 Squadron; the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who visited us just before the close of 'Red Shoes II'; **Major-General The Earl of Cathcart,** G.O.C. Yorkshire District; and, of course, **Brigadier Peter Robertson,** our Group Commander, to name but a few. They were all highly complimentary about our efforts, and although perhaps we shouldn't say it, we believe that there was some justification for their remarks!

71st Signal Regiment (V)

Considering that we had been going at it for less than a year from when we received our training equipment, we think we did pretty well. Distances worked with the SR D11 were realistic, and a step forward from our Regimental weekends at Crowborough, earlier in the year, when we tried and worked the FSK broadcast system, albeit over a distance of about five miles. Our links to the Gateway Squadrons of our sister Regiments proved no problem, giving confidence to the crews, who had to be convinced that it is easier to work the long hauls than to a station down the road.

All the individual training and the long hours spent in lecture rooms during camp last year and at T. & A.V.R. centres paid off big dividends. We knew how to do it—we only wanted the chance to prove it and practice it. The good weather contributed to our success and the Officer-in-Charge Weather saw us through with just two tins of it left to get us home on the last day.

We remember

When the Group Commander visited our locations, the weather being as sunny and as hot as the days which preceded and followed. Lunch was arranged by 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Squadron at their idyllic setting on the banks of the River Ure at Ripon. All present were dressed, or undressed, suitable for the exercise and the heatwave—shirt-sleeve order, with here and there a few KD slacks. Why, therefore, was the O.C. A.F.H.Q. Troop clad also in heavy, sweaty gumboots? Amid the table silver and with the sherry, the question was in the visitors' minds, but not voiced. Only when the order was given to serve the champagne was all made clear as the officer concerned jumped into the river and waded out to retrieve the bottles, where they had been laid to cool.

One of our senior N.C.O.s was studying a field of kale over a fence on day five of exercise. The farmer approached him and, eyeing his boots, combat kit and the SMG, asked "You interested in kale?" "Oh yes," said our man, "as a matter of fact I am a farmer myself." "Ah," replied the farmer, once again eyeing the uniform, "I didn't think you were a soldier!"

REMEMBER . . .

The date of the Reunion Dinner of the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (Korea) is 2nd October. Enquiries to: W.O.I (R.S.M.) H. Jennings, 30th Signal Regiment, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

From our "In" Tray

Extracted from Northern Command Orders

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief's Commendation for Gallantry.

Lieutenant C. D. McK. Kemp, Royal Signals

Lieutenant Charles Kemp, Royal Signals, of 11th Signal Regiment, was in his yacht anchored North of Scarborough on the afternoon of 11th July, when some men in a fishing boat came alongside. They reported that they had seen a man stranded on the cliffs around the headland and requested the loan of the yacht's dinghy to get to the shore underneath the place where the man was.

Lieutenant Kemp joined them in the dinghy and proceeded to the spot. It immediately became apparent that he alone of the party was properly shod to attempt the climb up the cliff face to the man, some 250 feet above sea level.

By chance two ropes had been left by coast guards the previous weekend when rescuing two girls. These were used by **Lieutenant Kemp** to climb part of the way up to the man. He then unhitched the ropes and took them on with him for the second part of the rescue, which proved to be the more perilous because of the nature of the cliff face and because the victim was panic-stricken. To reach the man the second phase of the climb involved a difficult unaided ascent of an extremely steep grassy slope. Having nearly reached the top of this portion, **Lieutenant Kemp** missed his foothold and fell nearly 40 feet, luckily without sustaining serious injury, apart from bruising.

Lieutenant Kemp after a second attempt reached the victim who was incoherent and distraught. He nevertheless succeeded in persuading the victim to abseil down the first portion of the descent. At one stage the man was so unnerved that he repeatedly clutched at **Lieutenant Kemp** and hindered the efforts at rescue.

After nearly four hours of exhausting, nerve-racking effort, **Lieutenant Kemp** brought the man to the bottom of the cliff.

There is no doubt that it was largely due to **Lieutenant Kemp's** sustained pluck, personal effort and complete disregard for his own safety, coupled with his knowledge of climbing techniques, that brought about a successful rescue.

The courageous and unselfish conduct of **Lieutenant Kemp** has been brought to the attention of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief who directs that entries will be made in his Record of Service and in Part II Orders as set out in Unit Documentation 1966 (Army) Part I, Army Officer Documentation.

Royal Signals First Day Cover Raises £950 for Association Benvolent Fund

Readers will recollect publicity earlier this year in connection with the Royal Signals First Day Cover scheme which was sponsored by the Training Brigade to celebrate our Golden Jubilee and, in the process, to raise money for Corps' benevolence.

The result has been that 4,000 separate orders were received for more than 7,000 covers resulting in a profit of £950, and a cheque for this sum has just been received by the Association from the Commander Training Brigade.

This is indeed a splendid effort and great credit is due to **Major D. M. Humphries,** Chairman of the Committee, **Major O. B. G. Shoubridge,** Secretary, and **Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. Atkinson,** Accountant. Equally deserving of our thanks is a large band of voluntary helpers including the Wives' Club of 11th Signal Regiment.

All in all a very successful conclusion to a very well organised venture.

MAJOR N. R. F. MACKINNON

Major N. R. F. Mackinnon, Royal Signals, of Army Air-transport Training and Development Centre, RAF Old Sarum, near Salisbury, has recently written a very excellent paper for the Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers which has resulted in his election as a Chartered Engineer and Corporate Membership of the Institution. Since 1964 he has privately achieved CEing, MIERE, AMBIM, AssocMITE—which by any standards is worthy of Special Mention.

EX-ROYAL SIGNALS O.C.T.U.

Captain W. Rangecroft, of 38, Sandys Leaze, Bristol, BS 9 3 PY is very anxious to make contact with any ex-members of 111 Course at 150 O.C.T.U. during 1943/44, as he is hoping, in conjunction with **Major K. D. Anderson,** to organise a reunion later in the year. As time is running short, please contact **Captain Rangecroft** right away or ring his office at Bristol 39753 or his home 68-2593.

Major J. Bowie (rtd.) would like all his friends to know that he is now domiciled at 24 Clifton Road, Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. Cunningham-Burley

Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham-Burley writes:

"I thought that you might be interested to know that, having successfully concluded my theological training at the London College of Divinity, I am now to be ordained in Saint Paul's Cathedral by the Lord Bishop of London on Michaelmas Day (29th September). The service takes place at 7.30 p.m., and I should be delighted to see you, and any others of my friends in the Corps.

We shall be removing from Harrogate on 1st September, and our new address will be: 159 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, Middlesex.

Upon ordination, I am to serve my title as Curate of St. Andrew's, Enfield."

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in July	**39**
Number of clothing parcels sent	**59**
Amount spent in grants and loans	**£1,080 11 11**

One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, regular soldier, whose wife deserted him three years ago in very distressing circumstances. He was left with two little boys, then aged seven and three, whom he has brought up without any help from anyone. He was obliged to give up his well-paid job and take one at a lower salary in order to have more time to devote to the children and the home, and has also struggled to pay off debts accrued by his wife prior to her departure. The Association made an exceptional grant of £140 in order to clear off his Hire Purchase commitments in full, thus reducing his weekly expenditure and giving him a fresh start clear of debt. Clothing parcels are also being sent for the children and himself. His letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

I HAVE tried four or five times to write and thank you for your help in my affairs, but I am so overwhelmed with emotion I just can't think of what to say. I honestly didn't think that such good people existed. I can only tell my children when they are old enough to understand, that there is such goodness in the world. I shall be everlastingly grateful for your help and kindness in my great worry. Once more thanking you from my heart on behalf of my children and myself.

Movements

Officers

Captain H. A. J. Alexander, M.B.E.	To	224 Squadron
Captain R. D. Allen, M.B.E.	,,	2 Cadet Training Team
Captain R. R. Bulloch	,,	18th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) P. F. Byers	,,	227 Squadron
Lieutenant D. J. Case	,,	16th Regiment
Captain (T.O.T.) M. D. Cherry	,,	2 Div. Signal Regt.
Major (T.O.T.) D. J. Chetwynd	,,	8th Regiment
Captain B. M. Cooke	,,	Birmingham University O.T.C.
Lieutenant J. Cooper	,,	28th Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain S. Cowan	,,	211 Squadron
Lieutenant A. J. Cowe	,,	260 Squadron (1st Com.)
Lieutenant I. M. S. Cross	,,	11th Regiment
Captain H. A. Culley	,,	222 Squadron
Lieutenant J. D. Daglish	,,	Sultan of Muscat A.F.
Lieutenant G. R. Elliot	,,	School of Infantry
Second-Lieutenant M. J. M. Emslie	,,	4 Div. Signal Regiment
Captain L. G. Fraser	,,	3 Div. Signal Regiment
Lieutenant D. G. W. Gardiner	,,	School of Infantry
Captain G. Hayes	,,	223 Squadron
Lieutenant R. G. Heaney	,,	Cambridge University O.T.C.
Captain A. J. Hervey	,,	16th Regiment
Captain (Tfc.) E. W. G. Hill	,,	240 Squadron
Captain R. A. Hoghton	,,	10th Regiment
Second-Lieutenant R. J. Holmes	,,	20 Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron
Lieutenant C. D. McK. Kemp	,,	18th Regiment
Lieutenant G. S. MacDonald	,,	4 Div. Signal Regt. (1st Com.)
Major N. Moss	,,	R.M.A., Sandhurst
Captain N. C. Muir	,,	264 S.A.S. Signal Squadron
Major M. J. T. O'Connor	,,	4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Captain T. A. Panther	,,	11th Regiment (retires)
Second-Lieutenant H. J. Paterson	,,	School of Signals
Captain (T.O.T.) J. St.P. Pilkington	,,	2 Div. Signal Regiment
Captain A. J. Reed	,,	9th Regiment
Lieutenant E. Robinson	,,	2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel T. I. Ronald	,,	H.Q., 2 Signal Group
Captain R. S. Rowland	,,	30th Regiment (as Major)
Major N. D. Shaw	,,	11th Regiment (for retirement)
Lieutenant E. M. Short	,,	22nd Regiment (1st Com.)
Captain R. A. C. Siderfin	,,	M.O.D. Sigs 35 C
Captain F. Souter, B.E.M.	,,	226 Squadron
Lieutenant J. A. Speakes	,,	Sultan of Muscat A.F.
Captain A. C. Stutchbury	,,	18th Regiment (as Major)
Major J. E. W. Thompson	,,	24th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel D. H. Thursby-Pelham	,,	M.A., Vientiane (as Col.)
Major (Q.M.) J. Worsley	,,	38th Regiment (V)
Lieutenant C. P. P. Barnes		R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
Lieutenant R. M. Burrows		
Lieutenant W. M. Clarke		
Lieutenant R. D. M. Graham		
Lieutenant J. H. Griffin		
Lieutenant D. P. Howhall		
Lieutenant J. Kay		
Lieutenant G. P. Maddren		
Lieutenant D. F. Palmer		
Lieutenant R. C. C. Palmer		
Lieutenant R. J. Skaife		
Lieutenant C. P. B. Smith		
Lieutenant C. I. Spencer		
Lieutenant P. L. Tilson		
Lieutenant D. M. J. Chatterton		
Lieutenant D. J Jessett		
Lieutenant N. G. Steven		
Lieutenant R. A. Parrimond		
Lieutenant B. C. P. Higson		
Lieutenant M. S. Walter		

W.Os and Sergeants

W.O.I (Y. of S.) I. A. Reid	To	1 Div. Signal Regiment
W.O.II C. J. Courtenay	,,	259 Signal Squadron
W.O.II S. R. Norris	,,	Tayforth Universities O.T.C.
W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Keeton	,,	Battken
W.O.II J. Hawey	,,	Oxford University O.T.C.
W.O.II (F. of S.) R. K. Owen	,,	School of Signals
W.O.II R. G. Ross	,,	13th Regiment
W.O.II A. B. Fugill	,,	11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
W.O.II A. J. Harris	,,	242 Signal Squadron
W.O.II C. J. Walton	,,	28th Regiment
W.O.II J. H. Izzo	,,	10th Regiment
W.O.II A. G. Stapleton	,,	Camp Commandant Central Staff
W.O.II H. R. Bennett	,,	18th Regiment
W.O.II M. J. S. Berriman	,,	H.Q. Western Command
Staff Sergeant J. A. Marr	,,	19th Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. A. Coultish	,,	21st Regiment
Staff Sergeant A. E. Kingham	,,	233 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant S. C. Gibney	,,	24th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. M. P. Whalley	,,	244 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant H. A. Sankey	,,	35th Regiment (V)
A/Staff Sergeant R. J. Atkin	,,	11th Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. T. E. Evans	,,	2 Div. Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant J. L. S. Grinnell	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant I. McDonald	,,	16th Regiment
Staff Sergeant R. A. Heeley	,,	14th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. Keohane	,,	244 Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant A. J. Carroll	,,	H.Q. 12 Signal Group (V)
Staff Sergeant E. W. Unwin	,,	H.Q. Scotland Army
Sergeant M. J. Bentley	,,	262 Signal Squadron
Sergeant O. E. Ballard	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant C. E. Napier	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant H. J. Whenman	,,	22nd Regiment
Sergeant M. H. French	,,	8th Regiment
Sergeant W. Tidswell	,,	18th Regiment
Sergeant D. A. Letts	,,	School of Signals
Sergeant S. P. Glover	,,	7th Regiment
Sergeant D. F. R. Laing	,,	255th Regiment
Sergeant L. A. Jeffrey	,,	33rd Regiment (V)
Sergeant W. T. Duffy	,,	14th Regiment
Sergeant R. D. V. Federl	,,	21st Regiment
Sergeant B. M. Reynolds	,,	222 Signal Squadron
Sergeant R. A. Finch	,,	18th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. Whenlock	,,	4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant K. Allen	,,	244 Signal Squadron
Sergeant G. Hardman	,,	9th Regiment
Sergeant J. E. C. Barton	,,	2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant A. M. Watson	,,	30th Regiment
Sergeant F. C. Hayden	,,	11th Regiment
Sergeant L. H. Hedges	,,	24th Regiment
Sergeant G. C. Langley	,,	13th Regiment
Sergeant J. W. Whelpton	,,	224 Signal Squadron

Promotions

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

			Sen. No.	Old Sen. No.	
To W.O.I	A/W.O.I	Marchant, W. L.	1810	3640	
To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Connell, D.	5360	5650	
	A/W.O.II	Winning, J. P. C.	5380	5670	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Ruff, H.	6610	420	(Lmn.)
	A/S Sgt.	Naismith, W. J. A.	6620	410	(Comcen Op.)
	Sgt.	Wrigglesworth, H.	6630	760	(Dvr.)
	A/S Sgt.	Haughie, G. G.	6640	490	(C Op.)

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.I	W.O.II	Kirton, J. C.	1570	2000	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Lile, G.	1700	1880	

CHIEF CLERKS ROLL

To W.O.II	S Sgt.	Abberley, T. A.	1300	1480	
To S Sgt.	Sgt.	Mullins, A. B.	1850	280	(Clerk)

TECHNICIANS ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Still, M. S.	9435	12992	
	Cpl.	Stone, W. R.	9476	7338	
	Cpl.	Lincoln, D. R.	9477	12680	
	Cpl.	Thorburn, C. D.	9479	14453	
	Cpl.	Butler, C.	9481	15250	
	Cpl.	Edmonds, G. H.	9483	14903	
	Cpl.	Dickenson, R.	9487	15580	
	Cpl.	Jones, B.	9489	16370	
	Cpl.	Milnethorpe, R.	9491	14636	
	Cpl.	Talling, F. D.	9492	15362	
	Cpl.	Thomas, R. G.	9493	15758	
	Cpl.	Froud, W.	9505	14516	
	Cpl.	Clifton, A. J.	9516	13716	
	Cpl.	Cooper, J. G.	9517	14468	
	Cpl.	Turton, J. E.	9518	15043	
	Cpl.	Davies, M. A.	9535	14964	
	Cpl.	Clarke, P.	9554	16084	
	Cpl.	Lavery, J.	9555	14647	
	Cpl.	Barsby, K. D.	9556	15260	
	Cpl.	Letts, D. A.	9557	15602	
	Cpl.	Vargas, E. B.	9558	15749	
	Cpl.	Sandall, R. D.	9565	14660	

TELEGRAPH OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Letori, G. A.	1230	1740	

CIPHER OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	Cpl.	Cole, M. J. S.	940	360	

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Castle, P. M.	1480	1510	
	A/Sgt.	Brogan, G.	1490	1200	
	A/Sgt.	Drummond, K. G.	1510	2126	

RADIO OPERATOR ROLL

To Sgt.	A/Sgt.	Meek, F. J.	1970	590	

DELETIONS

REGIMENTAL DUTY ROLL

W.O.I	1060	1530

FOREMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	1240	1330
W.O.II	1740	

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS ROLL

W.O.I	350	
W.O.II	1060	
S Sgt.	400	

TECHNICIANS ROLL

Sgt.	6245	6250	6275	6335	6400	7140
	9312					

SPECIAL OPERATORS ROLL

Sgt.	310

COMMUNICATION CENTRE OPERATOR ROLL

Sgt.	990

An Englishman's view of 'Fero Plus' — a Dutch Brigade Exercise

By Captain B. T. Lord

'FERO PLUS' was a 1st Netherlands Division exercise, designed to train Brigade staff and troops in the field and specifically in the two main tasks of a Brigade—first in the defensive role, and secondly in the offensive role. This involved forcing a river crossing, holding a bridgehead and switching to the attack along four main axes.

I meet my 'Blood Brother'

East of Ristedt, above the long, pleasant, Route 61, lies a gasthaus—'Kramers' by name—and there, on 1st June, I met **Captain Anne Laanstra,** Netherlands Signals. (Anne is an historical Freisland male name). I was to join the Staff H.Q. of the 11th Signals Battalion on 'Fero Plus' and Anne was to be my guide and mentor or 'Blood Brother,' as the C.O. termed him. I also met there **Captain 'Ben' Van Ittersum** and **Second-Lieutenant E. 'Bertus' Nauta.**

Later in the day I met the C.O. of 11th Battalion, **Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. G. Sterkens,** who was soon to hand over command before joining the NATO staff in Rheindahlen, and the new C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. G. Huygens.** I was also introduced to two members of the Women's Military Corps, **Captains Windt** and **Van Noord,** who are responsible for the surveillance (S2) in the field.

Signal organisation

The staff of a Netherlands Signals Battalion is an in-built feature comprising: S1—Personnel; S2—Security/Surveillance; S3—Operations and Training, and S4—Supply. All Signals Battalions are allocated as Corps Troops.

On Tuesday, I spent the day with Anne, in the Staff Command Centre vehicle, getting the feel of communications and noting the circuits as they came 'on stream.'

KEEN SOLDIER
"Right men; where's the battle?" Captain Laanstra emerges from the command shelter

As far as vehicles are concerned, the stalwart Daf is in main use as load/equipment carrier, with the Willys Jeep as runabout.

A round of visits

On Wednesday, I visited 11th Infantry Brigade in the first location, and there met **Major-General T. H. Van Ardenne,** Commander, 1 (NL) Division. The current supply position was explained to me by the Colonel who is responsible for co-ord of S4 within the Brigade. The Second-in-Command of 11th Signal Battalion, **Major Van Der Berg,** was my accompanying officer, and as a former Brigade Signals Officer with 11th Brigade, he was able to provide me with much interesting information.

On Thursday I visited a supply battalion and the Second-in-Command took pains to explain the methods utilised. Later in the day I visited RR sites, and on this occasion my accompanying officer was **Captain Nengerman** (S4 of the Battalion) who introduced me to the system of field inspections.

The next day I reported to the Divisional Staff helipad and met **Flight Lieutenants John Dorst** and **George Dierych** and **Sergeant Konig,** who were to fly me over the Brigade area. Our platform was an Alouette, and the vision from 300 metres up was outstanding. We flew eastwards to a RR site, where 'Doc' had to make a call on a sick soldier.

A visit had been arranged for me to meet the G3 of the Division, **Major Van Der Schoot** on Saturday afternoon. He gave Anne and I a superb briefing on the tactical picture and the phases of 'Fero Plus.' **Major Van Der Schoot** had served in the British 11th Royal Tank Regiment after the Normandy landings and had warm praise for the fighting qualities of that Regiment. In fact, all the officers I spoke to who had served, or had received their initial officer training in the U.K., spoke highly of our soldiers.

I was personally greeted everywhere with pleasure, and my hosts were especially kind. The fact that I spoke a little Dutch at first intrigued, and then delighted them. I saw everywhere sound morale, with discipline maintained on a light rein.

Verdict on messing—Good

In the field there is a combined Officers'/Senior N.C.O.s' mess, and I found the food good and the mess staff helpful. **Corporal Ludwig,** the mess cook, produced some delightful dishes, among them a Javanese rijsttafel—though the daily warm meal, eaten in the evening, was normally obtained from the soldiers' kitchen—an excellent piece of field equipment which can provide food for 200. Meals in the mess were always happy affairs with the mess staff—**Corporals Toon** and **Baudoin** joining naturally in the high spirits.

(Continued Overleaf)

THEY DO IT TOO!
'Spud-Bashing', Netherlands Army style

Battalion organisation

The Battalion organisation provides for three logistically independent companies, each providing the following facilities. Thus, with no organic changes, each has the same operational capability. 1 RR Platoon, 1 TP/Telephone Platoon (incl. a line GP), 1 AM/FM Platoon, 1 Msg Centre Platoon, 1 Suppy Platoon and H.Q.

The following Monday, Anne, 'Bertus' and I left the Battalion staff location at 00.20 hours by Jeep to drive eastwards so that we would be in position early to observe the river crossings.

A river crossing

Our first stop was on top of a mound of sand, and from here, at U-hour, we saw two MG Companies, using light assault boats make the crossing. Ashore on the east bank, they moved through simulated house-to-house searching before moving forward. At the second site there were slight problems with the fast current, but the troops in the assault craft had obviously practised their drills and the crossing was assured. The third location found the Recce Battalion armour already across, having 'swum' the river, and we found the engineers' ferry-building—a worthwhile sight.

Wednesday saw the end of the exercise, and at a lunch for the officers, I presented a Regimental plaque from the C.O., 16th Signal Regiment, to the Battalion C.O., which was to be placed in the Battalion H.Q.

I left the location to return to the Regiment with memories of a happy and rewarding experience. At the farewell lunch, I proposed a toast to the future success of 11th Signals Battalion. From all that I saw during my stay, it is well-deserved!

A parting tribute

Royal Signals Troop
1st Bn. The
Royal Irish Rangers

Lieutenant R. F. Willsher	Assistant Signal Officer
Sergeant W. D. Close	(recently attached from 6 Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron)
Corporal T. Parsonage	(posted to 244 Signal Sqn.)
Lance-Corporal A. Hambling	(posted to 6 Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron)
Lance-Corporal J. Roszkowski	(posted to School of Signals)
Signalman P. Lockie	(posted to 30th Signal Regt.)

On 1st July, the Royal Signals Troop attached to the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers was withdrawn—a sad occasion for the men who served and represented the Corps, working alongside their Infantry counterparts. An experience of this kind, enjoying a life rather divorced from that which they were used to, broadened their outlook on soldiering and drew them to a level from which they now appreciate the rudiments of communications and the vital requirement for success in all its fields in a highly-equipped and fast-moving fighting unit—the mechanised battalion.

The Troop's main task with the Battalion

The Troop's main task was to man the rear link communications of the Battalion. However, on occasions, they were employed on the command net. This gave them the chance to see how complicated and well-organised a full battlegroup net must be, and how much the burden of control the operators must accept. The exercise roles were simple and short term. In barracks, a great amount of their time was spent assisting in the training of the Regimental signallers, attending unit cadres such as NBC, drill and weapon training, and pursuing the many varied responsibilities of the Signal Platoon.

The men mentioned above all served a period of two-and-a-half years on attachment, and in this time, the aspects peculiar to an Infantry Battalion, its customs, history and characteristics became second nature to them. I believe that it is these facets that made their stay mean just a little more than extra numbers on nominal and acquittance rolls.

A valuable sense of co-operation has been realised

By their personal contact and observations, a valuable sense of co-operation of arms has been realised, something that will serve them well in the future.

Occasionally, when men are posted away from the Corps, the matter of further qualifications in trade and education become lax. This has not been the case with this Troop. The Battalion has been very conscious of this and allowed the men every opportunity available to attend courses. During the past year they have attended upgrading, educational and military proficiency cadres. **Lance-Corporal Hambling** must be congratulated on successfully completing BI(R/Op) and ACE II courses within three months.

Some personal accounts of experiences with the Battalion

Now that the hard facts have been written, the men have asked me to include some of their accounts of experience with the Battalion.

Lance-Corporal Hambling.—Since I have been with the 'Rangers,' my most vivid memory is that of the training we did in Libya in June, 1969.

After a safe arrival at El Adem, we were taken to Chatham Camp, the Battle Group Headquarters, sited 70 miles inland from the airstrip—'God's little acre,' as some called it—very hot, dry and dusty. Certainly not the place I could spend 40 days and 40 nights; with the help of a ten-ton refrigerator, running water, a soft bed and the odd can of beer, 30 was enough for us!

With an acclimatisation period of a few days in camp, I was later sent along with two others to command a radio detachment on the coast at Bomba. This was to be the area where Companies completed basic field training and the lads later managed to obtain so-called 'crash-tans' to impress their girl-friends on return. Although the permanent link for this separation of 70 miles was worked on HF, we were successful in operating a VHF link with a fancy array of R4, resisters and 'elbow grease' in what one could call an impossible situation. The amenities provided during off-duty hours included water ski-ing. This proved to be the most popular.

After ten days at Bomba, I was sent back to Chatham, where, with members of the Signal Platoon and **Corporals Grey** and **Hunt**, attached to us from 24th Signal Regiment, we maintained the command nets, message centre and a C11 link to the R.A.F. Comcen at El Adem, our only contact with the outside world.

My last task in Libya was as Commanding Officer's operator during one of the combat team's three-day battle run, in an area well-known to the Eighth Army, and included a night shoot with virtually no restriction on live firing—or so it seemed.

Finally it was back to Catterick and three weeks' leave.

Now that a Royal Signals Troop is no longer to be attached to infantry units, we will look back and remember the happy days we spent with the Regiment, having said a sad farewell to the many friends we have made, and looking forward to meeting up with them all again.

Lance-Corporal Roszkowski.—Since joining the Irish Rangers, two-and-a-half years ago, our eyes have been opened to the ways of the infantry. Without prior knowledge of the roles and operations of a mechanised Battalion, we found the 432 APCs rather mystifying at first. Now we can say that they pose no problems for us, for, after many exercises in B.A.O.R. and U.K., each one of us professes to be able to make the best cup of 'char' without lighting a match—blessed is that little grey box of tricks!

As to our experiences, on one exercise, whilst driving 'battened down,' our vehicle lurched suddenly, left the track and took a closer look at a deep hole. By the time it had settled at the bottom of this pit, one of the tracks had been shed. To repair and replace a track by day is difficult enough, but when you are wearing the 'clobber" and gas masks with a vehicle in such a situation; oh, and I forgot to add, the C.O. had decreed NO LIGHTS—the job looked impossible.

Thanks to 'Paddy's' humour and a few prayers on the right wavelength, we were able to sit back four-and-a-half hours later and think how were we ever going to make people believe our story.

While the Battalion was in Libya, **Signalman Lockie** and I were fortunate in obtaining vacancies on a BIII Comcen operators' course. This worked out quite well, for we were able to visit and keep **Corporal Parsonage** his cheery self, having remained in U.K. suffering from a severe bout of yellow jaundice. The depression really set in when he heard the restrictions for the recuperation period. He now knows how long a year really is!

A chapter in our experience in the Army is coming to a close. It has been a happy one. We thank the many friends we have made in the time we have been with the Battalion for making us so much 'at home' and 'one of the family.' We will never forget it all; when I think of it, we can't. The tie that was kindly presented is certain to jog the memory .

Postscript from the Commanding Officer, 1st Bn. The Royal Irish Rangers

We miss our Signals Troop. If they enjoyed being with us—and from the above article, I gather this was the case—it was because they gave as much as they received and always entered into the spirit of things. Without exception, they were a great credit to their Corps.

To them my sincere thanks and best wishes for the future—you will be always welcomed in this Battalion.

Swan song from down under

By Lieutenant J. C. Young

MY return to Singapore, at the end of July, marked the end of the exchange of officers between Royal Signals in Singapore, and 2nd Signal Regiment in Melbourne. Paring of establishments means that an officer can no longer be spared for this valuable and interesting tour. The Australians have also been unable to reciprocate the exchange for the past two years owing to a shortage of officers.

2nd Signal Regiment is in Watsonia Barracks, which is some nine miles from the city centre. The camp, which is fairly modern, and still being built, also contains 6th Signal Regiment (AUSTCAN Major Relay), and more recently the School of Signals. Various non-signals units will be moving out in the next few years to make way for the rest of the School of Signals, and then Watsonia will be the Australian equivalent of Catterick.

I arrived in Melbourne after rather a Cook's tour, via Djakarta and Canberra. An overnight stop at Hotel Indonesia can be recommended, but the subsequent 10½ hours in a Hercules 1A definitely NOT! With me was **Sergeant Boag,** who had come to find out why AUSTCAN wasn't talking to our D13 in the Solomon Islands.

Having settled in the Mess, and undergone a conversion to Carlton Draught, I was ready for work the following day. I was posted to 111 Squadron, where, at that time, there was plenty of scope, as there were only three Troop Commanders to go round seven Troops. I was told I would be taking over Sigcen Troop, some 70 strong. Then came the usual takeover, and the first of the problems—"No, sir, they're NOT just teleprinters—a GGC-1 is a TT-4A with legs on, and a PGC-3 is a TT-76 with legs on, and a . . . . "—oh well! at least amongst all this pile of American equipment, and jargon, I was proudly able to point out that a Drum Cable No. 5 (Aust.) is the same as a Drum Cable No. 5, but painted a different colour!

I very quickly settled into their way of life, becoming used to calling Senior N.C.O.s by christian name, and various other customs—a Squadron Commander 'concurs' instead of agreeing, and a file is 'sighted' not seen. I was able to take advice on these matters from some of the multitude of ex-'Poms' around—most notably **Sergeant** (ex-W.O.II) **Dennis Hulme, Sergeant** (ex-Sgt.) **Ken Tongue,** and **Staff Sergeant** (ex-W.O.I) **Keith Randall.**

A large proportion of the Troop was made up of National Servicemen, with some peculiar habits which took getting used to. They fill in time between weekends working for the Army, and have Julian Calenders which start at 365 and end at 0 (twice). The usual situations arose whereby I had a switch-board operator with two degrees, and so on. They soon learnt, after much coaxing, that the sight of side hat and blue pull-over approaching meant cigs out, Playboy/cards away and back to work.

EX-"POMS"

Left to right: Staff-Sergeant (ex-W.O.I.) Keith Randall, Sergeant (ex-W.O.II.) Dennis Hulme, Sergeant (ex-Sergeant) Ken Tongue and Lieutenant J. C. Young (exchange officer)

Our efforts were concentrated on preparation for Exercise 'Transall,' which was held at the end of April. This was a CMF exercise, but involved deployment of the whole Regiment. After the settling-in period, communications were solid, and traffic was loaded on to the system. We also ran up an AN/TSC-38 high power HF set, for the first time in some years, and when we started pumping 10 kw. into the AUSTCAN receivers at a range of only 30 miles, the screams were almost human!

World Surf Championships

During my stay, I also had the task of organising communications for the World Surf Championships at Bells Beach, and spent a month as Squadron Second-in-Command. I was granted leave during July, and spent this working on a sheep farm in Tasmania, doing time in the shearing shed, amongst other things; kangaroo hunting and home-brewed ale were the order of the day, and I had a most enjoyable time.

On my return, I had the opportunity of visiting the other signals units in the area. These included 3 Division Signal Regiment and 6 Signal Regiment (AUSTCAN), where I had a close look round Strad (the same as Boddington, but it speaks 'Strine'). I also spent a day at the transmitters at Diggers Rest, and a night at receivers at Rockbank, which is well known locally for its teetotal habits and strict licensing hours. Finally, I had a look over the new School of Signals, where the other 'Pom,' **Captain Jim Brinsford** works.

All too soon, my tour came to an end, and it was time to return to Singapore, this time by carefully planned Qantas flight.

Farewell to many friends

Much grog had flowed, and many friends were made in the short time I was there, and I was sorry to leave. It was also a sad occasion because, as I had learnt, I was to be the last U.K. exchange officer, no replacement being available because of the rundown in FARELF. I have now handed over the ex officio title of Commander, Brit Force, Watsonia, to **Jim Brindsford,** and returned to Singapore with memories of a most enjoyable and interesting stay.

The WIRE
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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

Bradley Squadron's distinguished visitor

DURING the weekend of 18th/19th July, Bradley Squadron of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, welcomed a very special visitor, in the person of **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.**—the Officer after whom the Squadron is named.

College reorganisation led to the creation, at the beginning of this term, of a fifth training squadron; in accordance with tradition, this was named after a General who had served with distinction in the Royal Corps of Signals. (The other Squadrons are named after **Generals Rawson, Phillips, Scott** and **Penney**).

General Bradley, a former Signal Officer-in-Chief and Colonel, Gurkha Signals—and at that time Representative Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Signals, became Master of Signals on 3rd August.

On arrival on Saturday morning, **General Bradley** took the salute at a parade of the 128 apprentices in the Squadron; this was commanded by the Squadron Commander, **Major J. R. Roberts,** Royal Signals.

Having watched the parade, toured the Squadron and spoken to many of the Bradley apprentices, the General commented: "It is some four years since I last came to Harrogate. In the short time I have been here today, I have already been greatly impressed by the tremendous improvements to the College. It is a joy and a privilege to return, as an old soldier, to see the young soldiers in the Squadron I am fortunate and proud to have named after me. Like all young soldiers of the British Army, they are every bit as good as, indeed even better than, their fathers—and their grandfathers!"

VISIT OF MAJOR-GENERAL P. E. M. BRADLEY
Chatting to three fellow Northumbrians in "his" Squadron
Left to right: A/T Lance-Corporal William Skee, A/T Stephen Parrack and A/T David Henry

Graduation Day, Summer, 1970

The Summer Graduation Day this term was held at the College on Wednesday, 5th August—a day, for once, of blue skies and warm sunshine, which made a fitting background to a truly glittering occasion.

A/T R.S.M. William Paterson commanded the 650 apprentices on parade—which gave him, as the Commandant was later to observe, a command rather larger than that of a Lieutenant-Colonel. **R.S.M. Paterson** is the first apprentice in the history of the College ever to hold the appointment for two terms.

We were delighted to welcome as Reviewing Officer in this, the Corps' 50th Anniversary year, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

After the parade, prizes were presented with traditional ceremony, following the Commandant's review of the term. Eighty-six apprentices were leaving, he said—36 technicians, 39

YOUNG MAN WITH A BIG RESPONSIBILITY
The S.O.-in-C. chats with A/T R.S.M. W. T. Paterson after the latter had commanded his second Graduation Parade. Also present the Commandant, Colonel Clinch

operators and 11 special operators. Of these 57 would start their Regular service overseas, in Malta, Cyprus, Bahrein, Singapore, Hong Kong and Germany. "You name it—they're going there." Of those remaining in U.K., said **Colonel Clinch,** most were going to 3 Division, where they have a good chance of going overseas with no notice at all. He spoke highly of this term's Senior Division as "what you might call a vintage year."

The Commandant went on to highlight some of the College's sporting achievements, reported in greater detail in earlier issues of THE WIRE. The Cricket XI, for the third successive year, won the Northern Command Cup; he did not think that the 'Man of the Match' award was solely responsible for **Lieutenant Ian Reading's** promotion to Captain. In the N.S.R.A. Meeting at Bisley five apprentices gained eleven national proficiency awards, which should help to maintain the Corps' present high standards in shooting. In fencing **A/T Graham** came third in the Inter-Services Foil Competition—the only Junior Soldier ever to fence at the Royal Tournament and the only one to be awarded his Army Colours.

In athletics, we won the Triangular Games for the first time since 1963 and collected 14 medals at the Army Individual Junior Championships. At swimming we not only won the Triangular Games, but also swept the pool at the Northern Command Championships. The Gliding Club continues to 'reach for the skies' over RAF Dishforth, while the Sailing Club's off-shore section much appreciated the loan of the Corps' yachts *Quicksilver* and *Skywave*.

Colonel Clinch declined to go into details of what actually happens in the Knaresborough Bed Race, but noted that Phillips Squadron had won it for the third time and are now duly entered in the *Guinness Book of Records*. At cycling our junior team has qualified for the Army Junior Finals while the senior team is so far ahead in the A.C.U.'s Fraser Cup that they cannot be caught.

No review of our activities, said the Commandant, would be complete without mention of the College Bands. Now 120-strong, they have played at social and ceremonial occasions throughout the county and even beyond, having again played this year at the Royal Tournament, Earl's Court. On parade that morning had been the much appreciated Pipe Banner presented by **Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung** on behalf of 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment.

Finally, the Commandant gave a piece of news of great interest to all ex-apprentices. Work on the tunnel between the College and Queen Ethelburga's had been suspended. We now have an apprentice who actually lives there!

He then invited **General Pentreath** to present the prizes. Main award winners this term were:

Army Commander's Prize (for all-round excellence): **A/T R.S.M. Paterson.** Commandant's Prize (for conduct, discipline and example): **A/T Sergeant James Stephen.** Signal Officer-in-

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Chief's Award (for the best all-round tradesman): **A/T David Hughes.** Colonel Commandant's Award (for the best all-round soldier/tradesman): **A/T S.S.M. Peter Bradley.**

Prizes awarded by the Royal Signals Corps Committee to apprentices who have made the best use of their opportunities at the College: Technician, Terminal Equipment: **A/T Sergeant Michael Graham.** Technician, Radio Relay: **A/T Corporal Roy Churm.** Technician, Radio: **A/T David Hughes.** Operator: **Sergeant Denis Geoghegan.**

Speaking in his turn, the Reviewing Officer said that he had come prepared to be impressed—and was. Congratulating **A/T R.S.M. Paterson** on "an excellent performance," **General Pentreath** praised especially the marching of the Senior Division and the playing of the Bands, who were, he assured them, held in high regard by the Corps Band.

As Signal Officer-in-Chief, he welcomed the 'graduates' into the Corps. "You seem," he said, "to be just what we want, but we should like to see more of you. If you have younger brothers or friends, bring them—if you think they're good enough." Having spoken of the variety of opportunity offered by the Corps, especially, perhaps in S.A.S. and Parachute Signals, he warned them that they might find themselves in future living in somewhat less comfortable surroundings than those at the College, and advised his audience not to place too high a value on creature comforts.

The Reviewing Officer closed his short speech by paying tribute to those of the College Staff of other arms of the Service, and to the civilian staff, who do so much towards producing capable and broad-based young soldiers for Royal Signals.

ATHLETICS

In the Army Individual Athletics Championships held at Aldershot on 3rd and 4th July, no fewer than 14 medals went to Apprentices at the College.

Perhaps—and certainly to **Mr. Charlie Allen,** our one and only civilian P.T.I.—the most satisfying result was that our 4 x 100 metres relay team are once again Army (Junior) Champions—a position which the said **Mr. Allen,** who coaches them, had come to regard as ours as of right. In winning this coveted award the team—**A/Ts Lance-Corporal A. J. R. Kite, J. Meikle, Lance-Corporal K. C. Gilder** and **Corporal T. Potter** —established a record of 45.4 seconds over the metric distance.

Individual 'gold' medals were won by **A/T Lance-Corporal A. J. R. Kite** (100m.); **Lance-Corporal J. W. Ridley** (hammer); and **A/T C. Sandford** (pole vault).

'Silver' medallists were **A/T K. Best** (800m.); **A/T Lance-Corporal K. J. Hadfield** (triple jump); **A/T C. Rowan** (2,000m. steeplechase).

'Bronze' medals went to **A/T M. R. Ferrier** (2,000m. steeplechase); **A/T J. G. Griffiths** (high jump and 110m. hurdles); and **A/T Lance-Corporal K. J. Hadfield** (long jump).

In addition to the competitors the College also contributed to the success and smooth running of the meeting by providing eight A.A.A. grade officials, including the Field Referee, **Mr. F. K. Brown,** who lectures in Social Studies at the College.

(Held over to next month an account of the Nijmegen Marches).

2nd Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 46

JULY has been a month of physical activity for most of us. The main events were the Morrison Cup, in which we did badly, the Divisional canoe races, in which we swept the board, and the Three Bells diving expedition, of which more later. Cricket is tailing off (we are in the Divisional final) and football is already starting, with a lot of new talent in the Regiment. Other people have been active, too, doing their PE tests, and long march training, including one R.P. who is alleged to have marched his prisoner back the 14 miles from Lubbecke in a thunderstorm, as the transport failed to turn up.

We also said our farewells to **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. Thompson** and our welcomes to **Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Yeoman** and **Mrs. Yeoman.**

Flippers over the Alps

The Three Bells Sub Aqua Club travelled to Moneglia, on the Riviera di Levante, near Genoa, Italy, for their summer expedition.

Following much hard work by all to get ready, the club, in military vehicles (civilianised for the occasion with GB plates) left Bunde on Saturday, 20th June. During the long and weary drive south, the following drivers, **Mick Comery, Fred Venus, Tony Roode** and **Rod Fleming,** ably assisted by their co-drivers, **Jock Hanna, Steve Batholomew, Paddy O'Connor,** kept up a steady pace until they were thwarted by the Swiss border. After much discussion, the convoy commander, **Second-Lieutenant Roger Neeve** finally diverted through France and the Moncenissio Pass (2,083 metres).

After 56 hours, the 'Blue Med.' was finally sighted at Genoa, and then, believe it or not, a very low bridge was encountered, making **Fleming** and his merry men take off their assault boat only seven kilometres from their destination. The Castle Camp Site, overlooking by 200 ft. the village sports field did not immediately appeal, but after a good night's 'kip,' all was settled and diving commenced with the Reveille Snorkel on Wednesday. Those Regimental types who reckon that this expedition was a 'skive' or public holiday, should try the half-mile bash in the water before breakfast!

The local Carbinieri Sergeant was soon put on our tail by the locals to distract him from their local day-to-day petty offences, such as parking. In the end, this local policeman was of considerable assistance. During the first week, the Italian Forces Area Commander, **Colonello Baroni Tuliio,** paid us a visit, with his American wife. The Colonello is the Commander of Chiavari Signal Sschool, one of the Italian Forces Integrated Signal Schools. He was recently C.S.O., H.Q., A.M.L.F. at Heidelberg, and hopes to be posted to SHAPE shortly. He is an excellent friend of the British Army.

Diving was halted completely on the odd day, owing to the dreadful 'Atlantic-style' seas, which made small boat launching impossible and swimming extremely hazardous. This gave us an opportunity for sight-seeing, and parties made their way to Pisa (of leaning tower fame), La Spezia and Genoa.

Anyone contemplating taking anything larger than a Sprite Alpine caravan to Monegelia is recommended to contact **Major Geoffrey Lefroy,** H.Q., 2nd Division, who is now rated, after hours of practice, as the caravan tunnel expert, ably assisted by his talented linguistic wife, **Tessa.**

Congratulations to **Corporals Goatley** and **Lea** who successfully passed the practical aspects of their dive marshal course, and the following on becoming third class divers: **Major Lefroy, Corporal Smith** (122), **Lance-Corporal Sherriff, Signalman Gregg** and **Sapper Fleming.**

The was the last dive for our Diving Officer, **Corporal Goff Adams,** who has now been posted to 227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT). We wish him and his new club good diving.

3rd. Division Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

Regimental Week

AS promised in the last edition, our notes start this month with a short resumé on our Regimental Week—and what a week it was! It started with the inter-Troop athletics, very ably organised by **Lieutenant Dick Farrimond.** No British records were set, but the spirit and rivalry between the teams could not have been bettered at the Olympic Games. Our congratulations go to **Sergeant Jock Stewart** and the lads of the D. & E. Platoon on becoming Champion Troop.

A night of revelry

Next on the agenda, an all ranks' dance. So many were expected, it became two dances in one. Between 400 and 500 members and guests packed themselves into the O.R.s' dining room, whilst a further 250 souls crammed into the NAAFI. Music was provided two bands, a discotheque and a 'juke box.' The Isle of Wight pop festival had nothing on us. The whole 'shebang' was organised by **Major Don Butcher, Staff Sergeant 'Paddy' O'Riordan,** and an excellent team of volunteers, and

compered by our cabaret expert, **Corporal Bob Hutchinson.** The last stragglers disappeared into the gloom at about 2.30 in the morning—tired, a little under the weather, perhaps, and happy. But were they surprised when they staggered into breakfast, a few hours later. The dining room was spotlessly clean and not a sign of the previous night's revelry was to be seen.

The big day

Saturday, however, was the big day. The C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Bohannan** had sent a huge pile of invitations to parents of our soldiers and was delighted when approximately sixty accepted. Other guests that day were 40 children from the Ovingdean School for the Deaf, and **In-Pensioner Michael Stamford,** from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. His first task was to 'con' the R.S.M. into letting him stay three days instead of two; his excuse was he would need at least three days to walk around the Regiment.

What a show we had—police dogs, a helicopter display, which included bringing in radio detachments, a military band, model planes, sideshows, 30 metre range, an assault course for the youngsters, a chance to drive a Land Rover for the up-and-coming Stirling Moss's, and even piano-bashing competitions.

120 hours of dart-throwing

Whilst all this was going on, eight junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen were establishing a record for the Guinness Book of Records. Under team captain **Corporal Jim Dean, Corporals Dan Drew, Ray Kearney, Lance-Corporals Ralph Johnson, Rex Barker, Steve Roach,** and **Signalmen Terry Rhodes** and **Bob Bruce** had been throwing darts non-stop for 120 hours. They started off the previous Monday at 16.00 hours and threw the last dart at 16.03 hours on Saturday. After the first eight hours, when all players had to toe the line, they started a rota system, allowing two men to go off for only three hours for food and sleep, whilst the remaining six kept going. Even after 120 hours, they hadn't finished, they proved their fitness by *running* a lap of honour round the arena.

So come on you other Signals units, can you beat us? We doubt it, but we hope you will try.

Quite an evening

In the evening we were treated to a magnificent ceremony of Beating Retreat by the Band of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. Our thanks go to **Bandmaster W. Wroe** and the Band for a wonderful performance.

To wind up the evening, the officers entertained their guests at a cocktail party, and the seniors and juniors had dances in their respective messes. It should be noted that as members of the Sergeants' Mess started to fall out in the early hours, **Pensioner Mike Stamford** was still dancing with the R.S.M.'s wife at one o'clock in the morning. I've heard that life for some begins at forty, but this was ridiculous.

But with all the hilarity, work went on. The Signal Squadrons had two weeks out on the plain, a D11 link with H.M.S. *Andromeda,* in South Africa, and, of course, our usual quota of visitors. We were particularly delighted to welcome *Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E., C.S.O.,* STRATCO, who commanded the Regiment a few years ago.

Farewell

This month we said farewell to one of the Regiment's stalwarts, **Major Neville Reed,** 3 D.G., who steered H.Q. Squadron to many great deeds. His experience, advice and good humour will be missed, especially by the younger members of the Regiment. His usual opening gambit of 'as an old soldier' had to be dropped when he was presented with a plaque by **Pensioner Stamford,** on behalf of the Sergeants' Mess. We welcome **Major N. Chesher,** R.T.R., who takes over the helm of H.Q. Squadron, and we hope his stay with us is successful and rewarding.

We now look forward to a well-earned block leave, but more of that in the next issue.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Major N. Reed, 3 D.G., outgoing O.C. H.Q. Squadron is presented with a Corps plaque by Chelsea Pensioner Michael Stamford. R.S.M. Morrill looks on

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Canoe ahoy!

AFTER a week's hard training on the Doktor See, the Regimental canoe team, led by **Second-Lieutenant Nick Steven,** moved down to Holzminden on the 30th June for the start of the 4th Division long-distance canoe meeting.

This was the first race for the club in the new glassfibre K2 doubles and Phantom White Water singles. A last-minute delivery of racing paddles from England saw the team well equipped and ready to prove themselves.

All the crews put up a creditable performance on the first day's 9 km. up-stream sprint, and by the evening there was little to choose between the finishers. The 65 km. down-stream section, the next day, was to be the big decider. After a breakfast of steak and eggs, the club members hit the water in high spirits.

Despite the length of the race, the finish was very exciting, when **Sergeant Dave Lunn** and **Corporal Mike Lloyd Williams** overtook the leading K2 in the final kilometre to win the individual prize for the fastest time on K2s. They, with **Signalman Dave Beatty** and **Lance-Corporal Keith Watson,** also took the runners-up team prize for the class, a very creditable performance.

The canoe of **Signalmen Howard Green** and **Smudger Smith** won the Hustlers individual prize and with **Corporal Ken East** and **Signalman Taff Hill** won the team prize and so cleared the board in that class.

In the singles class, **Signalman Nick Gray** paddled very well to win the K1 class individual prize, and he and **Signalman Wayne Rushton** secured the team prize in that class.

To complete the successes, **Signalman Eddy Burns** and **Signalman Charlie Bentley** won the runners-up prize in the same class, and so we were able to boast a prize for every member of the team.

On this high note, the club has again gone into training, this time for the B.A.O.R. Meeting, which will be reported in the next edition of THE WIRE.

Mosel Camp

Again, at the end of June, the inhabitants of Treis saw an island in the Mosel River, adjacent to their town, invaded by the Regiment for its summer camp. Believe it or not, a welcome awaited us!

Captain Bill Bailey was the Camp Commandant, and this enabled the Squadron Commanders to concentrate on the training. With the help, mainly of **'Q' Drugan,** many luxuries to make living under canvas less painful were evident, and the food only nearly ran out! . . . but **Sergeant Doolan** was there!

To spare the locals the embarrassment of being outnumbered, we sent the Regiment to camp in two halves—1 and 2 Squadrons going first and 3 and H.Q. Squadrons followed.

1 Squadron writes of the first half:

We were going to call it Summer Camp 70, but there were so many 50s involved, we changed the name to Summer Camp 50.

First of all, we all marched over 50 miles during the week we were there. We all knew we were in for the usual 10-mile 'bash' but, what with the 'running-in' marches, the night exercise and the orienteering, the total mileage rose rapidly. We were all highly pleased on the night exercise to find our team had been selected to escort 'Professor Moseiski out of enemy territory. Our pride evaporated when he 'broke his leg' on the last lap and we had to carry him on an improvised stretcher, only to get back to camp and find the nine other teams with nine other 'Professors'!

Some of us went mad and volunteered for the invitation 50 km. assault boat race. As if the round-the-island races were not exhausting enough, we spent nearly 10 hours paddling down the Mosel in our inflatable boats, on loan from a nearby German Pioneer Battalion. The race was won by the 2 Squadron team, ably steered by **Sergeant Ron Ford** (in a most military manner).

Unfortunately, another '50' was chalked up in rainfall—at least 50 inches, or so it seemed. Still, **Major David Dudley** had made the training programme pretty intensive and, apart from swimming being cancelled, the days flew by without much attention being paid to the weather.

Of course, we couldn't waste the opportunity to sample the local brew, and I am sure we all had at least 50 glasses of the excellent Mosel wine (or was it bottles?).

3 Squadron writes of the second half:

Our Squadron Commander, **Major Bernard Hodgson,** set off to the Mosel a couple of days before us, to escape the final preparations or to arrange the weather. He certainly fixed that, as we arrived in glorious sunshine, which remained with us for the next seven days.

We were indebted to the German Pioneer Corps in Koblenz for the loan of the rubber dinghies, which helped to make our camp so enjoyable. We had many hours of watermanship training, which included some delightful river trips. The highlight of the boating activities was the water regatta, organised by **Lieutenant Chris Barnes** and **Sergeant George Bamber. Corporal Dick Harding,** with his crew of RCT drivers, **Rathbone, Patrick, Middleton, Payne, Lance-Corporals Tyler** and **Swaile** (Royal Signals) proved the versatility of the R.C.T. by leaving their 3-tonners and paddling their dinghy to win the 'Round the Island' race. Not to be outdone, **Corporal Trev Mortlock's** crew, **Lance-Corporals Kelly** and **Burnett, Signalman Kerr, Fox** and **Woolley** won the relay race.

CORPORAL ELDER BRINGING HIS CREW HOME IN THE "ROUND THE ISLAND" RACE

1 Squadron "inflatable" almost a length up on 2 Squadron as they pass an unknown mile post

On Monday, 13th July, the entire camp was invited to a 'Grosse Sportfest,' which consisted of football, athletics, an obstacle course and hallenhandball. Honours were evenly shared, the final result being a draw. Our hosts then entertained us to lunch, followed by a trip in their motor launches down the Mosel. Our thanks to them for a very interesting and entertaining day.

Our thanks also, to **Staff Sergeant Tony Drugan,** the camp S.Q.M.S., for all his work; **Sergeant Jimmy Doolan,** and his cooks for the excellent food, and all the other permanent staff who worked so hard to make the camp the success it was. The Germans in the area, too, were very kind, and had arranged a winefest whilst we were there. We returned looking and feeling fit and already thinking of next year!

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

4 Squadron Camp

THIS year we thought a Squadron camp would be a change from the more usual Troop ones. The S.S.M. was despatched early to find a suitable site in Bavaria, and after five days 'efforts,' a local in a pub said I will show you the ideal site, and its also free.

It turned out to be a gorgeous site on the shore of the Kochel See, set snuggly at the base of the Bavarian Alps. The site was well situated for morning runs, followed by a "by jove, it's cold, but marvellous for hangovers" swim before breakfast, scenic walks and unlimited evening entertainment. Kochel-am-See, the nearest town, had dances; Murnau had a tremendous bier-fest and a U.S. Forces' N.C.O.s' club, while Garmisch had night clubs, and Munich, on Saturday night, 'had everything.'

The main body arrived by 3-tonner, after a 430-mile journey, on the evening of Friday, 10th July. On Saturday the camp was improved, ready for day one of training on Sunday. This day was marred by finishing with two soldiers in local hospitals and one in the U.S. Medical Centre in Murnau. All were eventually evacuated to the U.S. hospital in Munich, thanks to the great effort and co-operation of "you lads sure give us plenty to do" **Sergeant West** and his team at his Medical Centre. Training days two, three and four were spent on group activities, which included a day's initiative test, including bridging and rafting, organised by **Captain David Henning,** orienteering under **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Bob Coole,** abseiling under **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Johnny Wise,** and canoeing under **Corporal 'Ginge' Pinder.**

After four sweltering-hot days, the rain started. Group training continued, but the Yeoman's group that afternoon visited King Ludwig's Schloss Linderhof.

Lieutenant Paul White had set a motor-cycle trial course for the Regimental team, which happened to be with us. After completing the 72-mile course, the team said that if the B.A.O.R. trial was half as difficult, it would be easy! Thursday was the last day for the Nijmegen march team, and **Sergeant Jerry Jarratt** had set them a day's march over the mountains. He told them that the view from the 7,000ft. point was magnificent, but as they staggered along a col, holding on to the rail provided, with a blizzard driving them back, they did not appreciate his earlier remark.

On Friday we played a soccer match against Murnnau and beat them 3—1. This was followed by a dance-cum-barbecue for local talent. With flooring borrowed from the Americans and 'Alpha' Troop's discotheque, it was a great success. The food was excellent, thanks to **Sergeants Cooper, Barry** and **James's** work; the Germans there relished the 'Englishes bok-wurst' as much as the grilled steaks.

Regimental Bar-B-Q

"A superb evening," everyone said. "But when can we have another one like it?" they asked. These were the type of comments passed about the 'Bar-B-Q' organised by **W.O.II E. J. Simpson,** our newly-appointed Amenities Warrant Officer,

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On an old tennis training area in the woods of North Camp, wonders were worked by the Corporals' Mess Committee, led by **Corporals Chaloner, Lester** and **Clark,** who had built western-style rustic fences, erected canvas shelters, a rostrum, and arranged illuminations in the form of streams of coloured lights, and a floodlight or so. The L.A.D. gave a great deal of assistance by making the most important item, namely the huge charcoal grill, and two of our A.C.C. N.C.O.s, **Lance-Corporal Ivan Prentice** and **Lance-Corporal 'Beanie' Forster** produced many deliciously-cooked chickens and 'bratworst.'

Once the band started to play, the large dancing area was taken into full use, until we paused for half-an-hour to be entertained by the 'Gentle Folk,' a very humorous singing group from 2nd Division, Bunde. We finished a little earlier than expected, due to a shower of rain, with hundreds of raffle tickets sold and all the stubs a sodden mass in a drum.

The raffle problem was quickly solved a few days later by **R.S.M. Wilson,** when he got the Regiment together and gave us a few suggestions; the result, a unanimous vote to sell all the prizes and give the money to charity.

(Held over to next month a composite account of the Nijmegen Marches).

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Visit of the Signal Officer-in-Chief

Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E., visited the Regiment on 6th August.

Having visited and spoken to a large number of the staff and trainees he attended a buffet luncheon in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The opportunity was taken to invite the Commanding Officer of 24th Signal Regiment (**Colonel W. A. Sykes**) his Squadron Commanders and Warrant Officers and Sergeants to provide a joint luncheon party.

We welcome **W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. F. Knight** to the Regiment. He arrived just 48 hours before the Signal Officer-in-Chief's visit—something of a hectic start.

Athletics

The Regiment finished an all-too-short a season when competing in the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships at Aldershot on 27th July.

Although finishing fifth, it is to be credit of all concerned that all competitors put up very creditable performances.

The team were particularly pleased to be one of three Corps teams in the meeting. They offer their heartiest congratulations to 21st Signal Regiment on becoming Army Champions and to 7 Armoured Brigade and H.Q. and Signal Squadron on being runners-up in the Minor Units Championships.

Tug-of-war

Having qualified for the Army finals, the team found themselves pulling against more experienced and practised teams and were soundly beaten by all-comers. There is no doubt that the team and coach gained considerably in experience and can feel heartened by their reaching the final stages in the Army competition.

Swimming and Water Polo

On 14th May, the Regiment began the season with its inter-Squadron gala. The early start was to enable a team to be selected in time to get in some training before the Training Brigade and Command Championships. Training went well, and to keep the teams in trim, they took part in the Northern Command Swimming and Water Polo Leagues.

We were runners-up in both to A.A.C., Harrogate. It was decided to combine the Training Brigade and Command galas, and so the main events of the year took place on one day—14th July. Runners-up again, to Harrogate, we did, however, take the District and Training Brigade Swimming and Water Polo Cups.

As a final fling, a small team went to R.M.A., Sandhurst, to take part in the Sir Richard Butler 6 x 66⅔ yards freestyle relay, which is for runners-up in Commands at the Army Championships. The team finished as runners-up.

The team was too large in number to name all the swimmers, but special mention should be made of **Lance-Corporal Bellamy** and **Signalman Dagnall,** whose improvement throughout the season in swimming and polo contributed greatly to the successes. **Corporal Lennon** and **Lance-Corporals Alburey** and **Williams** also put up consistently good times. **Lance-Corporal Christie,** the trainer, although he obviously enjoyed putting the team 'through it,' made sure the team were all fit and also swam well in the backstroke.

The Regiment are about to say farewell to **Lieutenant John Ingram.** For the past three seasons, his own efforts, enthusiasm and guidance have been a major factor in the achievement and maintenance of the high standard achieved by the Regiment's swimming and water polo teams.

Tennis

Lieutenant 'Di' Morgan, W.R.A.C., has recently rejoined the Regiment. Since her arrival she has met with considerable success at tennis.

For the record, she has become runner-up in both the ladies' singles and doubles in the Army Championships; represented the Army in the Inter-Services Championships, and was a member of the winning Northern/Scottish Command team in W.R.A.C. Inter-Command Championship. Well done!

9th Signal Regiment (Radio) B.F.P.O. 53

Visit of the Administrator

Air-Marshal W. D. Hodgkinson, C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., R.A.F., the Administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas, paid his first visit to the Regiment on Tuesday, 14th July.

After inspecting the guard of honour, he was conducted on a 'whistle-stop' tour of the Regiment, stopping often to talk to duty personnel. He left after about two hours, but returned later as guest of honour at the Royal Signals Jubilee in the Officers' Mess.

Royal Signals Jubilee Ball

The Jubilee Ball was held in the Officers' Mess on the evening of the Administrator's visit. Dancing was to the Band of the 1st Battalion of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire, supported by the Harewood Club discotheque. Led by the Commander 3 Signal Group, **Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley,** all Royal Signals on the island played hosts to our guests and dancing continued till after three the following morning.

(Held over to next month an account of the new Corps yacht Mhairi).

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

THE Inspecting Officer at the parade held on 10th July was **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Gethin-Jones,** RWF, the Garrison Commander. The best recruits were **Signalman N. Thorpe,** of 2 Troop, and **Signalman C. E. D. Mair,** of 7 Troop.

Signalman Thorpe (18), who comes from Wakefield, was a driver's mate before joining the Corps. Now that he has completed his basic training he is going to 24th Signal Regiment to train as a Driver.

Signalman Mair (19) worked as a student medical laboratory technician before joining the Corps. He comes from Hemsworth, near Pontefract. **Mair** is a very keen athlete. He is going to 8th Signal Regiment to train as a technician. We wish him every success in his new life especially as he got married on 11th July.

The Inspecting Officer at the parade, held on a very damp 24th July, was His Worship the Mayor of Richmond, **Lieutenant-Colonel (retd.) R. W. Atkinson, O.B.E.** The best recruit of No. 8 Troop was **Signalman A. Reah. Signalman Reah** (18), from Cardiff, was a trainee telephone engineer before joining the Corps. **Signalman Reah** is married and has a baby daughter. He is now going to 8th Signal Regiment to train as a Radio Relay Technician.

Shooting

Shooting must be included in our column this edition with our shooting team competing in the Brigade and Corps meets, and the Services' Central Meeting at Bisley.

With an eye to last year's success to spur them on the team, under the leadership of **Captain Walsh,** won the Training Brigade Challenge Cup in Catterick (fourth time running), then went to the Corps Shoot held in Bulford. Here they walked away with the Warren Cup for the best minor unit (second time running). We must make a special mention of the most junior member of the team, **Signalman Cook** (2 Squadron), who did exceptionally well in getting his Army Hundred medal in his first season of competitive shooting.

11TH REGIMENT MARKSMEN SHOW THEIR TROPHIES

Left to right, standing: Corporals Minter and Rattray

Seated: Lieutenant Howard, Captain Walsh, Signalman Cook

Athletics

We entered the combined Scottish and Northern Command Minor Units Athletics Championships with high hopes. We finished on close third and came second in Northern Command. The whole team performed well; a special mention for **Lieutenant T. G. B. Fish** who finished the season unbeaten in the long jump.

Swimming

The Regimental Swimming Gala was held on Monday, 7th July, at the Garrison swimming pool. The programme was as for Army Minor Unit championships, with one or two events added for light entertainment.

Mrs. F. C. Lockwood kindly presented the prizes. 1 Squadron were the overall winners, thanks to the efforts of **Lieutenants Kemp** and **Morgan, Sergeant Lindsay, Signalmen Downie, Streeting** and **Smith.** P.R.I. provided the prizes, and **Lieutenant Kemp** left the battle with three copies of 'Through to 1970.'

The combined Northern Command and Brigade galas were held on the 14th July in the Garrison pool. In the Minor Units we were competing against 6th Infantry Brigade and Signal Squadron. We won all the events except the medley relay. This meant that the Regiment went forward to the Army Swimming Championships held at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on Tuesday, 28th July. In Camberley we were not so lucky. Although we gained the same number of points as 20 Squadron, R.C.T., they were declared the winners as they won the medley relay. **Lieutenant Morgan** won the backstroke event, **Segeant Baose** came a close second in the 100 yards freestyle, and **Corporal Brown, Lance-Corporal Kirkham** and **Lance-Corporal Johns** won the breaststroke relay. The remainder of the team were **Lieutenant Kemp, Sergeant Butterworth** and **Corporal Cockett.**

Arrivals and departures

We must say welcome to the Regiment to **Lieutenant Chris Enright** who goes to 1 Squadron, **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Boyle,** the new S.S.M. of 2 Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Hay** who goes to the Q.M.'s department, and **Major Hedges,** our new O.C. H.Q. Squadron.

Sad farewells were paid in July to **Staff Sergeant Perry, Staff Sergeant Ferguson** and **Lieutenant Speakes,** now trying to master the Arabic tongue before going off on attachment to the Sultan of Muscat's Forces.

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

THE Regiment in the past month has been occupied in many sports and extra mural activities, although our operational work has continued at its normal high pressure. Earlier in the month an open-air dance was run by 1 Squadron under the guidance of **Lieutenant Tim Mountford,** which was a resounding success. The music was provided by the 'Germs' who were led by our own NAAFI Manager, **Mr. Smith.** This popular group have just cut their first record.

At last our W.R.V.S. girl has arrived. After many false rumours of her arrival date and description (she was 65 and had a tin leg!), **Miss Una Lear** turned out to be neither of these; she is young and attractive. We are very pleased to have her with us.

On 1st July the W.R.V.S. lounge and snooker room, together with the Tavern Bar, were officially opened by the Commanding Officer. Due to the large queue for a free pint of DD the ceremony was short and pleasant. **Lieutenant-Colonel Baldwin** cut the red ribbon, declared the premises open, and then professionally pulled the beer for all. Also gracing this occasion were **Mrs. Baldwin** and **Mrs. Filder,** both of whom lent an air of dignity and one hastens to add that they were not in the queue for a pint!

The premises are now being well used daily and are much appreciated by all.

Rheindahlen Marches

Four teams from 13th Regiment (one from 'L' Troop, one from T.M. Troop, and two WRAC teams) took part in the 40km. Rheindahlen March. At 06.30 hours on Wednesday, 8th July, the Garrison Square looked like a mediaeval battleground, with pitched tents, colourful flags, a military band and hundreds of soldiers and civilians milling about in a profusion of uniforms. At 07.00 hours the marchers set off on a route which took them through Wegberg, Niederkruchten, to Bruggen and back to Rheindahlen via Waldniel.

The going was fairly fast and light-hearted in the cool of the morning, and the two WRAC teams even managed to make a short detour to visit a sick friend (**Lance-Corporal Anne Potter**) at the RAF Hospital. However, as the sun rose high in the sky, feet and boots became welded together, and grim determination was needed to keep going. Beyond Bruggen the road began to look like the retreat from Moscow. Stragglers limped along with bound feet. Other marchers were prostrate in the ditches. One survivor leapt into a stream, whilst another ate grass with a glazed, ruminating look in his eye.

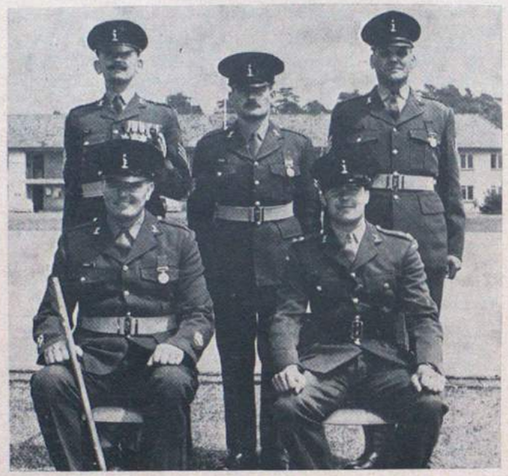
The two WRAC teams, spurred on by rousing Scottish music on a portable tape recorder, arrived back at the Garrison Square at 14.30 hours, followed by T.M. Troop. The band struck up a lively tune as the girls marched in, not a limp in sight, feeling very proud. Medals were presented and then all subsided in front of a long cool drink.

Canoe Club

The Regimental Canoe Club, once the toast of B.A.O.R., has now been pulled back on its feet again (by **Staff Sergeant Jim Goodridge**) after a slump of several years. This summer they have been going out most weekends when **Staff Sergeant Goodridge** has been ably assisted by **Corporal John Cole.** On 23rd July a Regimental team, sadly depleted by duties, left to take part in the B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships. Our team, consisting of **Sapper 'Taffy' Holman, Signalman 'Cha'ky' White** and **Signalman Niel Mapp,** were somewhat dispirited by the absence of the other team members but soon regained their morale at the sight of the abundant mini skirts on the sunny drive to the camping site. The Regiment entered a double canoe paddled by **Signalman Mapp** and **Sapper Holman,** and **Signalman White** in a single. At the prizegiving our moment of glory came when it was announced that **Signalman White** had been placed second in his class. As all canoeists know, success comes only from hard work. We congratulate 2nd Divisional Signal Regiment on their success. We will be back again in better form next year!

Training Wing

We recently gave an account of the activities of our Training Wing. To keep fresh the memories of our 1970 students, we include a photograph of the people responsible for their ordeal!



THE MILITARY TRAINING WING STAFF 13th SIGNAL REGIMENT
Left to right, standing: Sergeant T. C. Smith, Sergeant W. H. Leslie, Sergeant J. W. Horne. *Sitting:* W.O.II. J. F. Jones, Lieutenant C. R. Treeby

Sergeants' Mess

From the noise and dust billowing from the Mess, one would have thought the building was under seige; when the noise ceased and the dust settled, two or three white-haired members, who wish to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals by the unions, emerged from the main door. The entrance hall is being decorated with wood panelling and, despite a shortage of panel pins (it would appear that the members concerned have swallowed more than they have actually knocked into the wood) the job is coming on nicely.

One week later, members are still complaining of brick dust in the beer, but at that particular stage, a recess was being cut into the wall with a mechanical hammer to house a Japanese sword. We believe there is quite a story to the sword, and we are inviting the man who presented it to the Mess on his retirement in 1967, **Major Wilbur Write,** to our next Regimental dinner to tell us all about it.

Our summer ball, held on 16th July, was a tremendous success. Amongst our guests were our new Second-in-Command, **Major R. K. Nice,** and **Mrs. Nice, W.O.I (R.S.M.) Jim Gittins** and **Mrs. Gittins,** from 16th Regiment, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Bill Mathews** and **Mrs. Mathews** from 21st Regiment.

This month, a special mention must go to our lone adventurer, **Sergeant Jim Sherwin,** Intelligence Corps, who took 14 days leave and hiked far north to Lapland, armed with only a knapsack, some grains of rice and powdered (ugh!) tomato soup.

Departures: MWO F. N. Martin, Royal Canadian Signals; **Staff Sergeant D. E. Brown,** Intelligence Corps; **Staff Sergeant M. J. Sheridan, Sergeant A. M. Watson, Sergeant F. S. Robinson. Arrivals: Major R. K. Nice, Captain D. G. McH. Overton.**

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in Military Radio for example.

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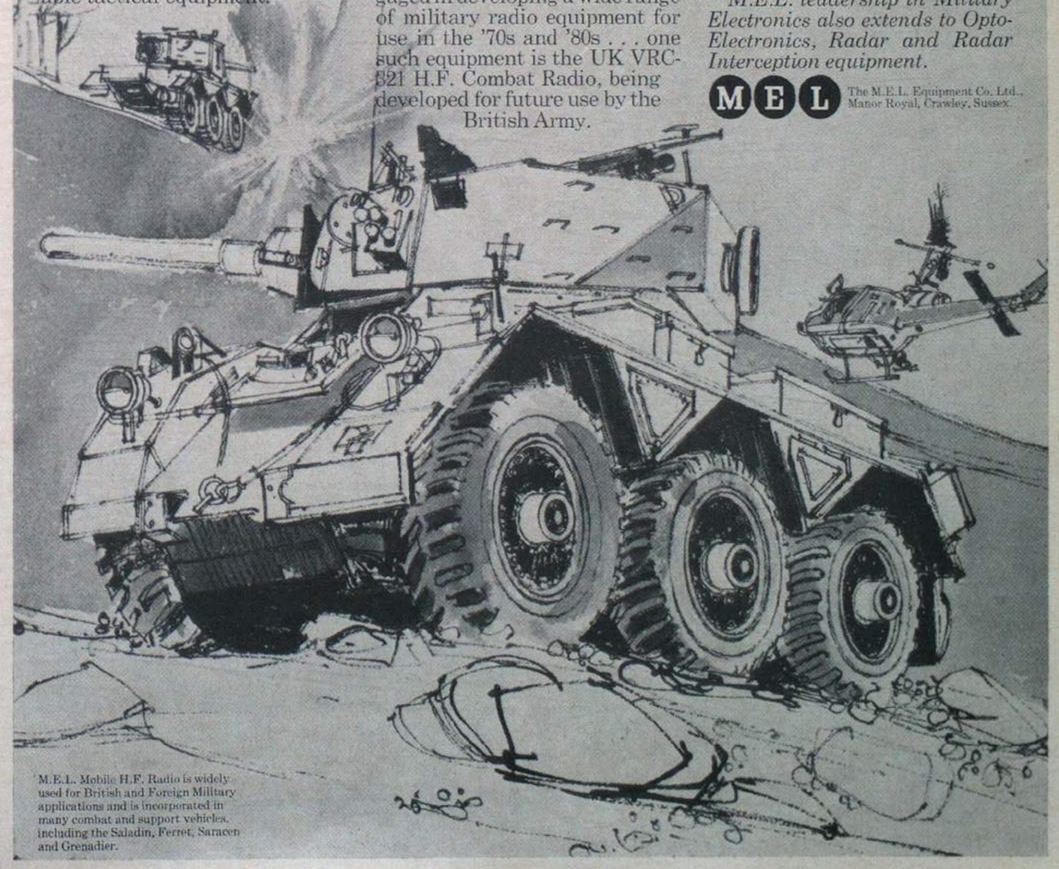
Currently produced sets such as the C11, C11(SSB), and radio telegraph adaptor equipment are in constant use in many countries throughout the world.

M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

This equipment is designed specifically for tactical roles, in combat and signals vehicles, and for transportable command stations for forward and rear units.

M.E.L. leadership in Military Electronics also extends to Opto-Electronics, Radar and Radar Interception equipment.

MEL The M.E.L. Equipment Co. Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.



M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

'It's a Knock-out!'—Worcester style

From our Television Correspondent

IT is not clear when, where, or even why, the idea started, but sometime in the recent past, the R.S.M., **W.O.I D. M. Rumsey** and **W.O.II (Q.M.S.I.) R. J. Underwood** got together and decided to organise a hotted-up, military version of the now-famous television production.

After much detailed planning and hard work, these stalwarts of Regimental life were able to 'invite' Squadrons to produce a team each to vie for the title of champion.

Before the 'off,' teams were taken over the course. Quickly dispelled were any ideas of an easy passage. The scaling nets, rope-swing, balanced wheelbarrows and other assorted man-traps, laid for the unwary as they carried ammunition boxes containing 80lbs. of sand, was more like a W.O.S.B. gone mad than that simple, gentle show on the 'box.'

In spite of these hazards, the Squadron teams really made a splendid effort, and after a close battle over some seven obstacles, including the inevitable 'marathon,' 3 Squadron just scraped home to win the honours of the day.

Regimental sports day—18th July

From our Racing Correspondent

Once again the Norton Barracks 'stadium' was blessed with perfect weather for the sports day. This year the emphasis was on making the day more of a family occasion, and in order to make sure that everyone had plenty to do, all sorts of stalls, races and general entertainment was organised.

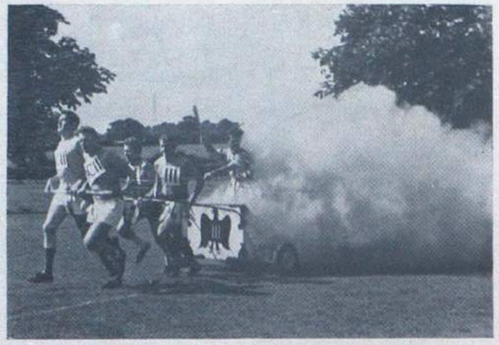
Squadrons were asked to build and man stalls, and the response was terrific. There were too many to mention here, but a word of credit must go to the chaps who ran—all afternoon—the 'cammed-up' battle wagon which, bristling with machine-guns, took countless children round and round the barracks. Credit, also, for the ingenious catapult range run by 3 Squadron, and a particular word of thanks to **Mrs. Jennifer Trelawny** and **Mrs. Pam Rumsey** for their help, for they spent the whole afternoon selling the many items given to their produce stall. These two ladies made about £16 profit, which was divided between three deserving causes.

Amongst the many other attractions was the donkey derby organised by H.Q. Squadron. The betting was brisk, the enthusiasm of jockeys and spectators alike was tremendous, but in spite of the tension and the mass will-power of several hundred spectators, the donkeys virtually declined to join in. It was only by some very judicious pushing and not a little shoving that the winner finally crossed the line.

Next came the Roman Chariot race. Each Squadron was required to enter one chariot complete with charioteer and four 'horses.' Squadrons were also told that there would be a prize for the best chariot as well as for the winning team. The standard of entery was most high and it was very difficult for the four judges, **Mrs. Joan Baker, Mrs. 'Pip' Kerr, Mrs. Pam Rumsey** and **Mrs. Chris Kemp,** to decide which was the best.

One thing was immediately clear—the vast amount of money spent in the Hollywood production of 'Ben Hur' was wasted, our chariots were much better and cheaper; H.Q. Squadron's effort was a definite attempt to produce a 'Kriegwagon,' if the pressed steel, angle iron and the sturdy pre-war pneumatic wheels were any guide.

1 Squadron's chariot was quite stylish, but according to the 'hairy' who worked out the figures for balance and proportion, must have had his slide rule upside down. 2 Squadron produced a psychedelic, wooden-wheeled monster of the old school, cumbersome—but 'truly authentic' was the claim. The chariot judged by the ladies to be the best was that produced by 3 Squadron and 602 Troop combined. Built for speed, and stylishly emblazoned with the war eagle of Rome, it got away to a fine high-stepping start and, when in the lead and upwind, released its secret weapon, so to romp home to the excited screams of a packed stand.



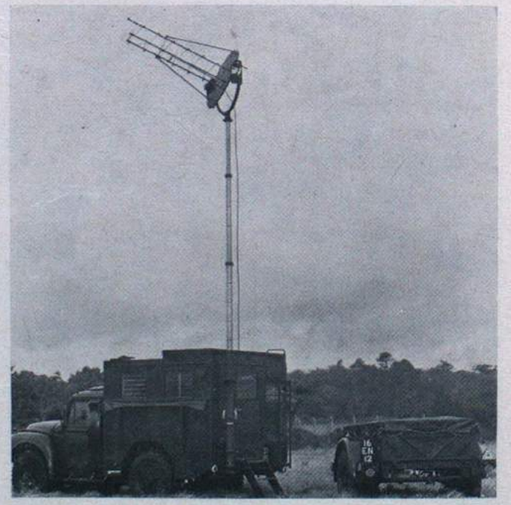
3 Squadron 602 Troop Chariot "burning it up" in the van of the inter-squadron chariot race
Ben Hur—Signalman Brian Yates
Leading Horses (602 Troop)—Signalman John Floyd and Harry Butler
Rear pair (3 Squadron)—Sergeant Pete Gray and Corporal Colin Myers

And athletics? Yes, we had those as well. The standard was very high, and thanks to the slick organisation of **Captain Bob Middleton** and **Q.M.S.I .Underwood,** a first class meeting was held. The combined team of 602 Troop and 3 Squadron was just too much for the others, and they won the Inter-Squadron Championship Cup, which was presented by **Mrs. Baker.** So ended a perfect day which, in the words of a 3 Squadron bard, or like the chariot in the photograph, 'went like a bomb.'

TACSATCOM

From our Space Correspondent

During May, SRDE handed over to 3 Squadron two UHF Tactical Satellite Communication Stations (TACSATCOM) for trials, using the Lincoln Experimental Satellite No. 6. The equipments are modified C50/R236 mounted in Humbers, as the photograph shows.



ONE OF 3 SQUADRON'S TACTICAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATION STATIONS

The stations are manned by UK/TSC-500 technicians from S and T Troops, under the control of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Pete Gill.** Besides carrying out trials, we have been able to create a 'space age signaller' image at two recent public shows—the School of Artillery Open Day and the City of Worcester Show. During these shows, links were established to various NATO TACSATCOM stations, and the public were invited to speak over the link. During the Worcester Show (two days) stations in U.S.A. (3), Canada (2), Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Norway (2) co-operated by working schedules to us. We even managed to arrange a date between a U.S. TACSATCOM operator and a visiting American girl—('Early Bird'?).

The success with which the TACSATCOM stations have been demonstrated has been due to the enthusiasm and experience of **W.O.I (F. of S.) Gill** and his team, consisting of **Sergeant Mick Staples, Corporals 'Baz' Pheasant, 'Ean' Davies, Lance-Corporal Brian Corcoran** and **Signalman 'Dib' Dibble.**

Stop Press: 3 Squadron on A.T.V. on 4th August. We hope you enjoyed the show.

Regimental Editor's note

In case these notes should mislead, there *are* Squadrons other than No. 3 (Complin's Company) in the Regiment—read the next chapter of 'Happenings with the Fourteenth."

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

JULY has been a busy month; the last two weeks in particular have been crammed with activity of one sort or another. We have been visited by the new Chief-of-Staff FARELF and by the C.S.O., said farewell to the C.S.O., amalgamated two of our Squadrons, held a 50th Anniversary Corps ball, helped wind-up Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' and engaged in a variety of sporting events ranging from darts to javelin throwing.

Visit by the Chief of Staff, FARELF, Major-General W. B. Thomas, D.S.O., M.C.

General Thomas spent the morning of 28th July with the Regiment. His visit commenced with a briefing on our role given by the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and Operations Officer at the Commcen Tanglin and ended with pre-lunch drinks at the Officers' Mess. In between, he toured the Commcen and visited 249 Squadron where he saw a display of vehicles and equipment and learned of Gurkha participation in the work of the Squadron. The General later declared how impressed he was, mentioning especially the briefing ("a gem of its kind") and the "splendid integration of so many nationalities."

Visit by and farewell to the C.S.O., Brigadier D. E. Warren, M.B.E.

Brigadier Warren will always be remembered in Singapore for the nine-hole golf course, now named after him, which he initiated and had built during his tour of command of 18th Regiment. He has always taken a great interest in our many and varied activities and it was therefore fitting that he should be closely involved with us during the two weeks prior to his departure for the South of England. On the morning of 17th July **Brigadier Warren** was the Inspecting Officer at the amalgamation parade of 1 and 2 Squadrons (now 1 Squadron), a preliminary to the contraction of the Regiment on run-down. Our photograph shows the impressive parade which climaxed with the presentation by the C.S.O. of four L.S. & G.C. Medals. The Brigadier made a special point in meeting for the last time the many locally enlisted soldiers who served him when he was C.O. His visit ended with a buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess. Later that evening he attended the 50th Anniversary Corps Ball held in Princess Mary Officers' Mess.

SQUADRON AMALGAMATION PARADE
I and II Squadrons amalgamated as I Squadron under Major Charles Bushell. On the dais Brigadier Warren

A week later the C.S.O. was dined out. Once again Princess Mary Mess was the scene of a gathering of officers from H.Q. 5 Signal Group, 17th Gurkha, 18th and 19th Signal Regiments. Earlier that day a landscape painting by **Staff Sergeant Abu Hassan,** commissioned by the officers of this Regiment and showing Princess Mary Officers' Mess and the adjoining Warren golf course, had been presented to the Brigadier. At dinner he was presented with a Selangor pewter salver and tankards from all Signals Officers in Singapore and Malaysia. The final highlight was the sight of **Major Charles Bushell** being used to clear the high quality soap bubbles from the C.S.O.'s staff car.

'Bersatu Padu'

Elements of 249 Squadron and the old 1 Squadron linesmen were among the last back from this nationally heralded exercise. A lot of hard work was involved, the swimming was good, the turtles fun and the mosquitoes and other flying beauties active. The rest of the Regiment is now subjected to the endless reminiscences from all those involved!

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

Signalman Francis Michael Elliott

It is announced with deepest regret that **Signalman Frank Elliott** died in a road accident at Rheindahlen on 15th July. Frank was a very cheerful young soldier who had made many friends in the Regiment during the short time that he was stationed in Germany.

All ranks of 21st Signal Regiment send their condolences to **Mrs. B. M. Elliott** and Frank's brothers in Manchester.

A month of turmoil and hard work in the Unit as R.H.Q. and H.Q. Squadron prepared to move from R.A.F. Laarbruch to R.A.F. Wildenrath, in the same month that both airfields held their 'Open Days'! With athletics and shooting teams hard at training and high level competitions, this has meant extra work for those left behind. But I think everyone agrees that it was worth it, and congratulations go to the victorious athletics team on winning the U.K. Army Athletics Championship and the shooting team on becoming once again Corps Team Champions.

Both teams will, I am sure, thank not only the active supporters, but all ranks who, by the team members' absence, had extra work thrust upon them.

A full write-up on the U.K. Athletics Championships will appear in the next edition.

Shooting Team successes

Team members of the unit travelled to U.K. on 19th June for the 'Shooting Season.' It was known that 30th Signal Regiment were to form strong opposition this year, but we were determined to give them a good fight.

Royal Signals Meeting

A full report on this meeting appears elsewhere—suffice to say here that the team won the Major Unit Championship and the Small Arms Cup. **Staff Sergeant Smith** was the Champion Shot, winning the Roupell Cup and the Association Cup on the way! **Lieutenant Reed** was second in the SMG XXX and **Major Cox** second in the Bisley Cup.

A.R.A. Central Meeting Bisley

The team shot well up to standard, but were beaten to second place in the Brooke Bond Competition by 30th Signal Regiment. **Staff Sergeant Smith** was consistent in the first and second stages of the Army Championships and was first after the first stage, and lying equal second, only one point behind the leader, before the final 'Army Hundred' stage. It was tough shooting at the top and he finished seventh.

Corporal Delahaye and **Lieutenant Reed** also made the 'Army Hundred' and **Lance-Corporal Brooks, Corporal Flynn** and **W.O.II Daniels** fired in the second stage.

Our congratulations to the Corps Methuen team in winning the trophy for the first time ever. **Staff Sergeant Smith** fired in the team and **Major Cox** was team coach.

N.R.A. Imperial Meeting, Bisley

Three members of the unit team remained to fire in Corps and Army teams during the national meeting.

Staff Sergeant Smith was one of a four-man team which won the Unit Championship in the national meeting; the 'unit' is, in fact, a Corps team, and teams are from all the Services of Commonwealth Forces—giving them the Africa Cup . They also won the Brinsmead and the Hythe and were third in the Mappin, Canada and Roberts. A very creditable performance, and another 'best yet.'

Lieutenant Reed fired in the SMG matches and was a member of the Regular Army SMG XXX team which won the inter-Services match.

Major Cox fired in the target rifle section of the meeting. He was a member of the Regular Army short range team, and appeared in several prize lists in what turned out to be a 'vintage' year. (One competitor was bitterly complaining about his £1 prize for getting a 'possible 50' with nine Vee bulls and being placed 40th in the 'Daily Mail' competition!).

R.A.F. Open Day—and the Regiment become Infantry

On Sunday, 5th July, Royal Air Force, Wildenrath, held its Open Day, with Royal Air Force (Germany) playing host to well over 150,000 spectators of all nationalities. This took the form of showing to our guests all aspects of all Royal Air Force Service activities, culminating in a flying display which included military aircraft of all types and a demonstration by the famous 'Red Arrows.'

Probably the highlight of the afternoon came at the end of the display with a simulated battle, involving aircraft, tanks, equipment and troops, which showed, in a very convincing way, how aircraft and helicopters can be used in support of the ground battle.

A Belfast transport landed and 150 'Infantry' disembarked in a hurry in full kit and carrying all the modern Infantry weapons. Unfortunately, there was no Battalion available for the purpose, so guess who the disguised Infantrymen were? There have been no applications to transfer to the Infantry yet, so presumably everyone is happy with their signalling tasks in the Regiment!

COMPOSITE ARTICLE ON NIJMEGEN MARCHES HELD OVER TO NEXT ISSUE

24th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

WIRE note writing this month is far easier than usual. A telephone call from 2 Squadron suggesting, and I quote: "that in view of the Squadron's outstanding success, you might like to publicise us . . . " with a threat of dire consequences if I didn't, has made the decision easy. So, without further comment . . .

Orienteering

The Regimental Orienteering Competition took place on Wednesday, 22nd July, at Gaza Lines. The weather was fine, and there were 38 competitors, many taking part in the race for the first time. The course, on the surface, appeared to be fairly easy, but the open country concealed a multitude of difficulties. In fact, two competitors from the H.Q. team, who, to spare their blushes will remain nameless, were not seen after leaving the start line until the following day! Perhaps they were confounded by the insidious moving check point, which, suspended over a stream, somehow detached itself and floated off, complete with its crew!

The individual event was won by **Lieutenant J. R. S. Amberton,** of 3 Squadron, who covered the four-mile course in 83 minutes; second was **Corporal Kirkham** (2 Squadron) in a time of 102 minutes. 2 Squadron also won the team prize with a team consisting of **Sergeant Finch, Corporal Gilhooly, Corporal Kirkham** and **Corporal Hunt.**

Tennis

The Northumbrian District Soldiers' Singles Cup was won by **Corporal Miles,** of—need I say it—2 Squadron. The final took place on Friday, 24th July, and **Corporal Miles** won 6—3, 7—5. The game was marred to some extent by rather inclement weather, but nevertheless, the standard was surprisingly high. **Corporal Miles,** enjoying an extremely successful season, was somewhat unlucky to meet, in the open, the potential winner of the competition in the semi-final.

2 Squadron chronicle 'We are the champions!'

2 Squadron have seen a rare run of success in sport this year. During the winter, the Squadron won all but one of the weekly competitions—basketball, volleyball and shinty, and were runners-up in the other—five-a-side football.

Then in the spring they won the Brigade combat race and very soon added the Regimental athletics trophy to their growing hoard. Then came the tennis competition where, despite, or because of, the unbelievable play of **Captain Kay** (1 Squadron) 2 Squadron were again victorious.

Now, having won the Regimental Orienteering Competition, this is almost the last straw! However, the rumour that all 2 Squadron telephones are now ex-directory is not entirely true; it is still possible to speak to the Squadron if an appointment is booked!

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

Shooting team at Bisley

AFTER much training and encouragement, a team was selected to represent the Regiment at Bisley. Two of our shooters were complete newcomers to the Bisley scene and found that it really is a tense and cut-throat business! **Second-Lieutenant Jane Dyer,** W.R.A.C., the Team Adjutant, has found it quite hard work to try and write a light-hearted account!

By 1st July, Bisley had turned into a highly-efficient and well-disciplined base camp for hundreds of soldiers from U.K. and B.A.O.R., plus some sailors and airmen. Even the 10th Gurkha Rifles had come over from Penang! The Coldstream Guards were running the shoot and had been lumbered with the job of erecting rows and rows of tents and supplying them with electricity and *metal* beds—these shooters enjoy their comforts! The 30th Signal Regiment team made themselves at home and consisted of: **Major George Cowsill** (captain), **Lieutenant Derek McLean, Corporals Mel Blowman, 'Pinky' Purkiss, Gerry Jaques, George Rennoldson, Lance-Corporals 'Dodge' Kingham** and **Jeff Taylor, Signalmen Colin Harris** and **Tom Locke.**

The first day was spent doing rifle, pistol and SMG sweeps. Fortunately, most of our shooters won enough money to help support many of the local Chinese restaurants!

On 2nd July shooting began in earnest, and by the Saturday morning it was evident that all of our team, bar two, were in the next round of the Army Hundred Competition. This round consisted of the top 252 from those who had shot in the Roupell, Whitehead and Association matches.

After spending all Saturday afternoon in the butts on Century Range (the range with 100 targets) everybody looked forward to having a day off to regain enough strength to cheer at the Falling Plate Competition in Monday. This was a great success and the Royal Signals (21st Regiment) managed to get into the semi-final, but they were not quite so good as the Rifle Depot, who took the winning cup.

Tuesday was the day of the Roberts Competition, when the 252 were sorted out and the top hundred of these would go on to shoot in the Army Hundred Competition on Saturday, 11th July. It was also the only really summery day we had, with temperatures well into the eighties. Although the spectators were quietly melting away and shielding their eyes from the sun, they still managed to see **Corporal Gerry Jaques** sprinting enthusiastically down the range with magazines flying everywhere and hair blowing in the wind. He was, however, undaunted, and he raced back to pick them up and returned speedily to the firing point and continued to have a good shoot! Those who were not shooting that afternoon had a cool-down in the Aldershot Lido, and a very welcome one it was, too!

We soon heard that **Lance-Corporal 'Dodge' Kingham** had won his SMG 30 Medal and will shoot at the N.R.A. meeting, and that **Lieutenant Derek McLean** had got his Pistol 30 Medal. Morale was high on Friday, 10th July, when the Methuen was to take place. **Brigadier Brindley, M.B.E., A.D.C.,** the President of Corps Shooting and **Brigadier Tonry** (who is taking over from him as President Designate) were there to support of the Corps team of six, which included **Lieutenant Derek McLean, Corporal Mel Blowman** and **Corporal Gerry Jaques** of 30th Regiment. We were shooting well, but for the spectators, things were becoming a bit tense, whilst we were top equal with the R.A.O.C., but they didn't have a chance, and we eventually won by 30 points. Big celebrations took place that night in the Gun Room, and after drinking champagne and Guinness, most of the shooters were in the same state for the Army Hundred the next morning as they were the night before!

Four of our team, **Lieutenant McLean, Corporal Blowman, Corporal Jaques** and **Corporal Purkiss,** got into the final Army Hundred. You may have noticed that **Major George Cowsill's** name hasn't appeared! That's because after not doing too well in the Association Match, he discovered that he had been the oldest competitor for three years! This news boosted his morale considerably and next year he's taking up Target Rifle and becoming Non-Firing Team Captain.

The A.R.A. shoot ended in a veritable blaze of glory for the Royal Signals, and you can see some of the results in the silver cage outside the 30th Signal Regiment guardroom! **Corporal Jaques** and **Corporal Blowman** stayed on at Bisley for the National Rifle Association (N.R.A.) shoot and helped to win a couple more trophies for the Corps!

Sports Day

A week of wet weather preceding the appointed day had caused a postponement of the Officers and Sergeants' cricket match and the inter-Squadron sports were also threatened as the clouds continued to roll in from the north-west. H.Q. Squadron erected marquees, and Thursday, 30th July brightened into one of those rare warm sunny days we fondly believe only occurred in yesteryears. The enthusiasm and ingenuity put into the Squadron sideshows and stalls was duly rewarded with a crowd of spectators and families, the like of which has not been witnessed on the Blandford sports fields for many a day. The L.A.D. can be pleased with their efforts.

The Wives' Club with truly feminine resourcefulness contrived to have a profitable afternoon in their bazaar and met with great success. Eventually, even the NAAFI tent ran out of everything, and the imagination of our mess supervisors toyed with dream of untold bar takings and a sea of empty paper cups.

A few 'demanding' words at the start of the afternoon from the announcer, and the issue of the greatest attraction was soon decided, the running events were under way and **Signalman Mainwaring,** of 4 Squadron, set about winning the hurdles in his own style.

3 Squadron, who had just returned from assisting the communicators at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, thought they knew all the rules. 2 and 4 Squadron were allowed to unite their diminished numbers and competition was keen throughout the afternoon. Although 2/4 Squadron were at a slight disadvantage, they produced a team sufficiently strong to extend 1 Squadron to the limit in the 4 x 880 yards, and 1 Squadron were only able to recapture the lead due to the splendid running by **Lieutenant Bob Baynes** and **Sergeant David Welch.** 3 Squadron dominated the distance running, which was won by **Corporal David Blackall** and **Yeoman Colin Bland,** with third and seventh places respectively.

3 Squadron who, by their efforts in coming second in the tug-of-war, gained sufficient points to win the sports cup for the combined total of tug-of-war and athletics. After a keenly-disputed competition, 1 Squadron, with only one point difference, won the Atheltics Cup for the track events.

Visitors

July has been a very busy month for visitors. We were delighted to entertain the Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Dyers and **Mrs. Verner** at the Cygnet dinner. We were also pleased to have with us **Colonel A. R. Marshall** and the Clerk to the Company, **Mr. Balfour-Park.** The occasion was marked by messages of greeting on this tenth anniversary of the association from our detachment commanders in Anguilla, Bangkok, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

19 Airportable Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

THE Squadron has been rather reticent over the past few months, due to our participation in Exercise 'Bersatu Padu.'

This was a five-power exercise designed to practise the participating nations in the defence of Malaysia and Singapore.

The Squadron moved to Malaysia at the beginning of April. The months of April and May were spent acclimatising, jungle training and in work-up exercises prior to the main five-power exercise 'Granada,' in June. The Squadron returned to U.K. in mid-July.

During our stay in the Far East we made many friends, in particular, 5 Singapore Infantry Regiment proved to be most excellent hosts. We received considerable assistance from 18th Signal Regiment and worked closely with 249 Squadron. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for their help.

'A' TROOP

'A' Troop has now returned to Cherry Tree Camp, with but a few exceptions, notably **Lance-Corporal Young** and **Signalman Tuck,** and is now in a period of calm, awaiting the return of vehicles and equipment. All members of the Troop are, however, looking forward to the August block leave.

Since our return we have had some important additions to to the Troop, namely **Lieutenant Walters,** who is about to take over from **Lieutenant Maddren,** soon off to Shrivenham, and **Staff Sergeant Bermingham,** who is now falling into the slot left vacant by **Staff Sergeant Marr's** departure to 19th Signal Regiment, with apparent ease.

Exercise 'Granada'

Now to deal with the exercise. 'Granada' began, for the Troop as H.M.S. *Bulwark* sailed with TAC H.Q. on 9th June, where they were, it seems, very well looked after.

The battle really commenced on the 10th. 40 Commando, R.M., landed at first light and successfully captured the airhead. By first light on the 19th, TAC H.Q. was required

and it 'choppered' in smoothly, without incident. Communications were then established within 1½ hours of landing.

From this point to the end of the exercise, only 1½ hours' loss of communication was recorded. 'Granada' proved a great success for the Troop and, in fact, all members of the Squadron more than proved themselves.

'J' Troop

To see a member of 'J' Troop in the Malayan jungle is as common a place as seeing a Cockney in London—we are natural 'jungle bunnies.'

Most of us spent our first month undergoing jungle training in the Mersing area. There, under our leader, **Lieutenant Strudley,** we learnt jungle navigation and a little about living and fighting in the steamy rain forests. No one would admit that it was easy, but nevertheless, it proved to be at least interesting. Indeed, our instructors maintained that after a while one could become quite 'kinky' about the claustrophobic vegetation that always surrounded us.

Back in Tebrau, in an old vehicle depot, preparations were being made for Exercise 'Granada.'

Before the main exercise, however, it was necessary to have two warm-up exercises—one a CPX, the other an FTX.

Nevertheless, we were operating throughout the exercise, a national rear link for live traffic. For the successes of this we owe a great deal to the 14th Signal Regiment detachment who were with us in Malaya. They under **F. of S. Gadman** and **Sergeant Chapman,** from 249 Squadron, were always very helpful, and on the final exercise proved to be invaluable.

It was, of course, not 'all work and no play' and we had a very fair amount of leisure time.

Everyone visited that Mecca of the eastern world—Singapore. We all bought lots of present to bring back home, and some, of course, tasted the delights of the fair young maidens, 'full of eastern promise.'

Finally the day arrived when Exercise 'Granada' would begin. Our comcen was 'dug in' at the side of the airfield as a precaution against air attack. This produced conditions not unlike those of the Black Hole of Calcutta. At least we proved one thing in our 'hole'—heat and humidity don't affect secure equipment at all badly. We had secure communications throughout the exercise.

Then, after the exercise, back to our base camp at Tebrau, to pack up for the return to U.K. Even in the heat, people were working flat out to get back. Never let it be said that we weren't pleased to be coming home—enjoyable though our short stay in Malaya was.

LIEUTENANT STRUDLEY AND CORPORAL LAWRENCE IN THE JUNGLE
"According to the map there should be a pub here"

'M' Troop

While on Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' the brains of the Troop amalgamated to produce this masterpiece.

MUCH SWEATING IN TEBRAU

(To be sung to the tune of 'Much Binding in the Marsh' with apologies to Richard Murdoch, Sam Costa and the late Kenneth Horne).

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The first thing that we did was jungle training;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
We cannot say we found it entertaining;
No washing and no shaving and no Tiger for a week's,
It got so bad—the B.O.—that your best friend wouldn't speak,
But worst of all the leeches sometimes bit you up the creek,
With much sweating in Tebrau.

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The Squadron has really gone quite sporting;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
The cripples all to sick parade reporting;
With broken bones and twisted joints you'll see them in the queue,
All standing there as if there isn't anything to do,
You'll even find the Rasman with his broken finger too,
With much sweating in Tebrau,

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The officers' air conditioners blew fuses;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
But our billets were built for different uses;
With heli-pads outside, you could not see in for the fog,
And when it rained the whole place was turned into a bog,
With monsoon season on us it would pay to be a frog,
With much sweating in Tebrau.

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The food out here is really quite delicious;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
The items on the menu are fictitious;
When scrambled egg is served it turns up rather sweet,
And in the stews and curries we are looking for the meat,
Everything would be O.K. if we didn't have to eat,
With much sweating in Tebrau.

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The exercise we are on is quite exciting;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
The trouble is we don't know who we are fighting;
The enemy, both 'Hims and Hers' are really quite a sight,
And when they come and visit us they rarely stop to fight,
But if you catch a WRAC girl you can't stay out all night,
With much sweating in Tebrau.

With much sweating in Tebrau,
The traffic down in 'Singers' is chaotic;
With much sweating in Tebrau,
But the men down Bugis Street are quite exotic;
When going bargain hunting you may end up paying dear,
When evening comes you're thirsty and you go off for a beer,
But unless you're very careful you may end up with a queer,
With much sweating in Tebrau.

Arrivals and departures

We welcome to the Squadron **Lieutenant C. J. Walters, W.O.II Wall, Staff Sergeant Bermingham, Staff Sergeant Perry, Sergeant Brooks, Sergeant Gallagher** (R.A.P.C), **Sergeant Tappin** (R.P.C.), **Corporal Elsey** (R.E.M.E.), **Corporal Woods, Lance-Corporal Boniface** (R.C.T.), **Lance-Corporal Denvir, Lance-Corporal Griffith, Signalman Durrant** and **Driver Ellam.**

We say goodbye to **W.O.II Newson, Staff Sergeant Smith, Staff Sergeant Clarke, Sergeant Sheard, Corporal Parry** (R.E.M.E.), **Lance-Corporal Ledger, Signalman Phillips, Signalman Bell** and **Signalman Addison,** who we wish well in their new units.

We also say goodbye and good luck in civilian life to **Sergeant Wilson, Corporal Smith** (R.E.M.E.), **Corporal Davis, Lance-Corporal Pickering** and **Private Thompson** (R.P.C.).

12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn. (212) B.F.P.O. 36

July bug

This exercise was the Squadron's summer camp which took place at Gelting on the Baltic coast. We were only 10 kilometres by sea from the Danish border and this gave us many opportunities to use the ferry service and investigate the lack of Danish censorship! We were camped on the sea shore and as we brought a number of canoes, recce boats and landing craft together with associated 40 h.p. Johnson engines we became quite nautical. The boat race was won by 'A' Troop who beat 'T' Troop inspite of the fact that the latter was ably skippered by **Sergeant 'Ahab' Pope.** He later stated that his crew had mutinied and muttered dark threats about keel hauling, etc.

We were not too lucky with the weather. However, 'wet' periods were filled in with initiative exercises. One of the objects to be obtained was a lock of blonde female hair. As every member of the Squadron succeeded in bringing back a good handful we are sure that there are many bald erstwhile blonde girls wandering forlornly around the Baltic coast.

M.T. Troop Notes by Sergeant F. Pope

FOR the last few months readers of THE WIRE have been treated to several articles about 'Bravo' Troop. For those who are uninformed, the reason for this is that the author of this Squadron's WIRE notes is O.C. 'Bravo' Troop.

So for the interest of all can we introduce 'T' Troop.

The Squadron M.T. Troop, as you can see from the photograph, is a mixture of Royal Signals and R.C.T., all working under our M.T.O., **Captain Ken Adrian,** R.C.T., and S.N.C.O.s **Staff Sergeant Lunn,** R.C.T., and **Sergeant Pope,** Royal Signals.

We regard ourselves as the 'workers' of the unit and we thought it was about time that we muzzled in on the publicity given to some of its 'drones.'

At present we are preparing for the P.R.E. and can be found with our feet sticking out from underneath vehicles getting them ready. Incidentally, 16 of these same feet went round the Nijmegen marches, the highest percentage in fact of any Troop in the Squadron.

'T TROOP'

Top row, left to right: Lance-Corporal McConnell, Driver Fleming, Signalman Engering, Signalman Houston, Signalman Waller, Driver Williamson, Driver Fleming, Lance-Corporal Owens. *Middle Row:* Lance-Corporal Arthur, Driver Cave-Whitley, Driver Bacon, Driver Glowinski, Signalman Calder, Driver Evans, Signalman Trantor. *Front Row;* Corporal Mann, Staff-Sergeant Lunn, Captain Adrian, Sergeant Pope, Corporal West, Corporal Wainwright

Nijmegen Marches

Twenty-five members of the Squadron have just returned from the Nijmegen marches. Having completed the full 25 miles a day for four days we qualified for the team medal and a number of blisters.

We were the largest Royal Signals team at the marches and, of course, being an integrated Squadron we had amongst our number four R.C.T. drivers and one A.C.C. cook.

Deserving special mention for sheer guts were **Signalman Hulse** and **Signalman Warrilow,** who stuck with us when many would have given in.

The end for everybody came with a five kilometre march past into Nijmegen's town centre. Our Squadron Commander and R.S.M. came to see us on the last day and received tremendous applause when, looking much fresher than all of us, they marched down the road in order to get to us.

(Held over to next issue a composite article on the Nijmegen Marches).

11th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron (211) B.F.P.O. 29

Summer Camps

THIS year summer camps were spent in three separate troop locations on or near the Eder Dam. Each Troop camp site has its own tale to tell and many varied memories to last the next 12 months. (Alas, somewhat abbreviated, due to extreme pressure on space, by a hard-hearted Editor!).

'Alpha' Troop at Schmittlotheim

There can be little doubt that all who took part in summer camp 'Alpha' style enjoyed themselves.

The camp at Schmittlotheim on the Eder was run for military training but the location, weather and spirit of the participants made for a more than pleasant two weeks. Runs at 5 a.m. were not popular but they proved to be an excellent way of clearing heads before a long day.

Those who attempted canoeing discovered that although the double canoes were rather like punts, **Corporal 'Brad' Bradley's** sleek single was not quite so stable and the 'soggy stuff' was tasted by **Signalman Bob Spring,** who looked rather dramatic, and **Signalman 'Rik' Lee,** who was most embarrassed.

The sun shone for most of the time which helped most of us to obliterate that just-crawled-from-under-a-stone look. The other less well prepared Troops had forgotton to take any form of identifying flag for the camp site so there were feelings of jealousy and envy for the one belonging to 'Alpha' Troop. This explains the scene of a four-ton load of M.T. Troop worthies being driven away from the 'Alpha' Troop flag location by an extremely large and loyal **Corporal (Big Sid) Hagemeyer,** brandishing a meat-cleaver and butcher's knife, as well as two others offering violence with fire extinguishers. The flag remained with 'Alpha' Troop until it was politely lent to 'Bravo' Troop for an evening function. **Corporal Ron Ross,** of 'Bravo' Troop, made the mistake of handing it to **Captain Mahon,** of M.T./L.A.D. He has lived (unfortunately) to regret it.

The 'Alpha' Troop farewell party was combined with 'Bravo' Troops to provide one big 'hooly.' Lighting of many colours and beatiful bunting, by courtesy of **Signalman 'Wedgy' McCullough** and **Signalman 'Tug' Wilson,** and music from the Green Scarf plus much Anglo-German co-operation made for an excellent evening.

Finally, appreciation must be given to **Sergeant Pigg** for the fact that 'Alpha' Troop had the only draught beer on camp, to **Heinz** who could obtain anything cheaper than anyone else, to **Corporal Hagemeyer** for an excellent two weeks' food and to **Drivers Gowar** and **Hall,** the 10-ton drivers, who joined in with our camp.

'Bravo' Troop at the weir at Viermunden

This was obviously the first time that British troops had visited the area, as the villagers were very friendly towards us.

The mornings consisted of military training, with the occasional map-reading (taught by **Corporal 'Jock' Campbell**) and fieldcraft exercises, using the local watercourse whenever possible. The afternoons were devoted to sports, where we were able to use our three canoes, and one now rather deflated rubber recce boat to the full.

Not every day had such a wet ending, however, for the occasional infiltration exercise/walk around the countryside was thrown in for everyone's enjoyment. One such exercise saw four pairs of intrepid explorers crossing the lake at strategic points in order to storm a spot height and capture **Second-Lieutenant Thompson** before he woke up. He was, in fact, most impressed with **Corporal Ron Ross** and **Signalman Laidlaw's** attempts to arrive three hours before everyone else, until it was realised that they had 'infiltrated' on a tractor!

We also enjoyed the company of the whole village at a party we held in the field, with music provided by **Lance-Corporals Colin Wing** and **Paul Cowles,** of the 'Green Scarf' Disco, plus an excellent buffet prepared by **Lance-Corporal**

Dinsdale, A.C.C., with the assistance of **Signalmen 'Flash' Boyle, 'Tug' Wilson and Harvey Preece.** This party was such a great success, that we decided to combine our resources with 'Alpha' Troop, located nearby, for the farewell party.

Not that we really needed one, a rest day was organised by **Sergeant Kilorn,** who took the more energetic campers on a canoeing trip down to the lake. The same day saw the sad departure of **Y. of S. Hawkins, Corporal 'Taffy' Crook, Lance-Corporal Dave Walker** and **Signalman Harvey Preece,** and the happy new faces of **Sergeant Kibblewhite, Corporal Joe Kelly, Lance-Corporal McCarthy** and **'Flash' Bolton.**

It was a very sad 'Bravo' Troop that arose at 05.00 hours on 17th July (after a rather heavy farewell night!), broke camp and headed home for Minden; it had been a very pleasant two weeks away from 'communicating' and we had made some very nice friends in a beautiful area. What appeared to be very strange, is that we have been invited back next year!

M.T./L.A.D. at beautiful Asel-Sud

Sergeant Shreeve shouted "Tally-ho" on the clear and sunny morning of Saturday, 4th July, and his small but select convoy loaded with stores and a lot of hope, proceeded in the direction of the Edersee. After a pleasant and uneventful journey, the advance party set to work with great determination, and within a record two hours, Fort Lazy 'D' was a reality. Ahead were two very enjoyable weeks of adventure training in one of the loveliest places in Germany.

Added to the normal M.T./L.A.D. was **Lance-Corporal Johnson,** of 29th Field Ambulance, and three members of 9 Squadron R.C.T., **Corporal Hewitt** and **Drivers Wright** and **Knight.** They were to take a very full part in all our activities on camp and they became extremely popular.

Sunday was a leisurely shake-out day when the Troop became familiar with the local area and the local inhabitants. Our camp was situated on the south side of the Edersee at Asel Sud, a large civilian camping site, which was thronged by holidaying Dutch people. There was plenty of local colour and some friendships were struck up with the Dutch which will stand the test of time. To the south of our camp was a large and beautiful nature reserve full of wild deer, goat and pig. This was to provide great interest on the many hikes we made through it. The Troop was divided into two sections, one under **Corporal Roy Acaster** and the other under **Corporal 'Jock' Graham,** and much friendly rivalry developed. In particular, on the mountaineering hikes **Corporal Acaster** was somewhat upset to find that his best time over the hills of 4½ hours was cut by **Corporal Graham's** section to 3½ hours.

The first week was spent in mountaineering, canoeing and sailing during the day time and in the evenings we played international football and volleyball against mixed Dutch-German teams.

Things were going very well indeed and we were all feeling pleased with ourselves, particularly **Sergeant Shreeve** and **Sergeant Fry.** Then on Sunday, the Second-in-Command phoned to say that he was sending 14 C.C.F. cadets and a Padre to join us. Cadets were bad enough, we thought, but what can we find for a Padre to do! However, when **Captain Perry-Watson** and his 14 intrepid warriors arrived from Fort Augustus Abbey School, it didn't take long for them to impress us with their infectious good humour and determination. **R.S.M. Cave,** who joined us on Sunday, and **Padre Perry-Watson** were inseparable—a note for the Corps annals we feel!

Our escape and evasion exercise on the Tuesday of the second week was a great success. M.T./L.A.D. did the escaping and 'Alpha' and 'Bravo' Troops the capturing. The exercise was marked on the one hand by the extreme ingenuity of M.T./L.A.D. Troop and on the other hand by the extreme brutality of 'Alpha' and 'Bravo' Troops. In particular **Sergeant Peacock,** of 'Alpha' Troop, earned himself a reputation as a gentelman of doubtful parentage. We had made several attempts to capture 'Alpha' Troop's heavily guarded flag in the week before the exercise but our best efforts were frustrated by their enormous, cleaver wielding cook, **Corporal Hagemeyer.** However, while the exercise was on and the camps were lightly guarded, we liberated the flag secretly, and at the exercise debrief we were able to present 'Alpha' Troop with their own flag. **Lieutenant Dick** turned an interesting shade of purple, his henchmen in 'Alpha' Troop fingered their D10 lariats, but discretion was found to be the better part of valour and the incident was passed off with a hearty laugh on both sides.

Although we didn't leave until Friday we held our farewell party on Wednesday evening to allow Thursday free for packing up camp. Our discotheque night, attended by our Dutch and German friends, was a great success. When a Dutch spokesman stood up late in the evening to thank us for our contribution to camping on the Edersee, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. The following day there wasn't a clear eye in the camp! In fact, we were more than grateful to our foreign friends for their good humour and hospitality—they contributed greatly to our enjoyment of summer camp.

216 Parachute Signal Squadron Aldershot

THE trophy photograph shows that we hold more cups and trophies than ever before in the Squadron history.

Since April our sporting activities have been kept to a minimum as a result of training commitments. **Corporal Baikie** and **Lance-Corporal Paterson,** two of our leading athletic lights, have consistently represented the Army in high-level sports meetings. **Corporal Baikie** is justly proud of being a member of the Army team at the Inter-Service meeting.

216 SQUADRON HAVE A FULL SHOWCASE OF SPORTS TROPHIES

Summer Camp

Summer camp this year was held at Penhale, near Newquay in Cornwall. It was generally thought to be the best in living memory. We managed to do a lot of useful training along with the usual festivities.

A road run and swim at 06.30 hours was a daily feature and there was many a quickly drawn breath at about 06.50 hours as we ploughed into the none-too-warm surf for our daily awakener.

The training consisted of I.S. duties covering road blocks and ambushes, a very useful day was spent doing section attacks from a Whirlwind helicopter. We practised heli-drills, emplaning, deplaning and roping. Also we spent one afternoon on air experience which involved very low flying over the three-mile Perranporth beach. For two days and nights we were on an infiltration exercise, half of the Squadron being in hides while the remainder patrolled to find them. When hides were discovered, their occupants suffered the usual kid-glove treatment that is afforded to prisoners captured in guerrilla warfare situations.

Our assault boat training rapidly became a surfing exercise. The Canadian life saver permanently posted on Hollywell Beach thought it was all a big practical joke when we arrived carrying the flat-bottomed Army assault boats. He began to sense it was not a joke when we donned life jackets, shouldered paddles and doubled off towards the raging surf carrying our boats. In hot pursuit came the life saver, dragging his equipment behind him. Once we had capsized a few times and recovered the unfortunates from under the boat, we began to get the hang of the game and spent some considerable time paddling out to the largest breakers we could find, turning between waves and surfing in. When **Lance-Corporal Wells** was flung from the boat he struck out for shore intent on saving his life, only to be told to stand up to find himself in four feet of water! Laughter was heard from the beach, much to **Lance-Corporal Well's** embarrassment.

We hoped to top our training programme with a total of ten balloon jumps each during the last week. We managed to get in one descent apiece on the first morning only to have the next two-and-a-half days cancelled with the now infamous catch phrase of 'Lightning risk one' ringing in our ears. It seemed a bit difficult to believe the RAF detachment as they sprawled on the sundrenched beach muttering 'Lightning risk one' while turning over to get an even tan. Their reputations were saved when the lightning finally came after two days of cloudless skies.

We played sport and beach games, including three football matches against 61 Company (T.A.) R.A.O.C. and Perranporth Football Club, all of which we won. Perranporth were beaten 9—0 and 11—1.

A committee was formed to run a beach barbeque which was extremely successful. A local discotheque was hired and the glow of the driftwood fire could be seen for two miles. We returned on 12th June to get back down to some routine work at Aldershot.

H.R.H. Princess Anne's visit to the School

It is a safe bet that we will not be the only unit writing about this visit, but to keep the record straight we will just mention our participation. We provided a Land Rover rigged for parachuting as a static exhibit and our unarmed combat team gave a lively demonstration of how to fight when the odds are stacked against you. The Princess was extremely interested and watched the complete demonstration. The team also gave a display at the Corps Reunion at Catterick.

Travel

At the time of submitting these notes, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron has detachments of soldiers in Canada, Cyprus, Malaya, Malta and are on leave for 25 days at the height of summer, subject to the dock strike. DCI (Army) 297/69 can show you how to get your share.

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B.F.P.O. 18

Family changes

THE period covered by these notes has been extremely eventful both in the diverse nature of activities and movement of personalities. Notable departures are **R.S.M. Brian Fisher** to 31st Signal Regiment (V), **R.Q.M.S. Ron Postlethwaite** to 19th Signal Regiment as R.S.M., **Sergeant Pat Cole** to 7th Armoured Brigade as Staff Sergeant, and our **Pay Sergeant John Bex.** Our new arrivals include **Captain John Pearson** from the 'Sharp End,' **R.S.M. Tom Burke, R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson, S.S.M. Bert Bowes, Sergeant John Stout** and **Pay Sergeant Ron Thomas.**

"DOG-GONNIT MR. R.S.M., DIDN'T KNOW A HAIRCUT WOULD PLEASE YOU SO MUCH"

Left to right: W.O.I (R.S.M.) B. Fisher, Sergeant 1st Class B. Harper, Staff Sergeant J. Walker and W.O.I (R.S.M.) T. Burke

Up the river with the Sergeants' Mess

To celebrate the Corps' 50th Anniversary we organised a Sergeants' Mess Ball. A unique note was added to the score by staging it on a river cruiser on the River Maas. **R.Q.M.S. Ron Postlethwaite** figured in the initial planning and rumour has it that the idea was based on the Dunkirk 1940 Regatta. Fortunately guests were smaller in numbers than they were 30 years earlier and so we had dancing space.

The success of this venture was due largely to the efforts of **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Derek Moat** and **Sergeant Jeff Williams** with his entertainments committee. **Corporal Pedley** did sterling service to promote the party spirit by giving liberal measures in all drinks. His finest hour came when he delivered a drink (which he had not spiked) to one of the Officers. The Officer tasted it, spluttered, then complained: "This is pure lemonade." In a manner more suited to the Savoy, **Corporal Pedley** tasted it, savoured the bouquet, agreed the diagnosis with an inscrutable countenance before dashing off to lace the drink.

Problems of maintaining a detachment

Our two major summer exercises were highly successful. 'Sigex,' a communications exercise, proved very interesting with incidents infected by the staff. There was a danger on occasions of the staff accusing us of jumping the gun as some of our more archaic equipments were at times about ten incidents ahead of them.

This exercise also gave **R.S.M. Brian Fisher** the opportunity of meeting his new Regiment. One detachment invited him over for drinks in the evening. On arrival with other seniors he was amazed to find a lavish buffet laid out in C41 covers plus any other item suitable for use as a tray. This, coupled with suitably chilled champagne, was most impressive. Full marks must go to this detachment as the standard of communications provided was on a par with their catering.

Time off

The Squadron summer fete, organised by **Lieutenant Alan Pearce,** took place on 12th July. His few words with the Padre ensured that we had ideal weather. The bar and a refreshment tent run by the Squadron wives proved very popular. Charles Forte and Joe Lyons can expect a takeover bid any time now.

In addition to all the usual stalls and sideshows we had a very spectacular free-fall parachute display. This was given by **Charlie Schuzlenberg,** an instructor with the AFCENT Parachute Club, and a member of the Netherlands Commandos. He jumped from 5,000 feet and landed with precision in the centre of the arena after manoeuvring a fantastic distance.

A very impressive Karate display by organised by **Corporal Les Martin** and **Fritz van Duinen,** of the Geleen Taekwon-Do-Club. This included a number of spectacular leaps over tables and four men splitting concrete and wood blocks on the way with elbows, hands and feet.

Our foul plot in organising a greasy pole competition was thwarted when **Captain Rex Stephenson** demonstrated his prowess by unseating all contenders.

S.S.M. Bert Bowes turned out in a very fetching ensemble of black wig, flowered sunsuit, 'mammary' glands of monstrous proportions and wellington boots for his spell on the ducking stool. Danny La Rue had better look to his laurels with drag talent like this in the offing. The standard of marksmanship was phenomenal, and if he had spent any more time in the water tank these notes would have included an amendment to the Blue Book.

Cars and communications

Two of our Yeomen are also suffering from car troubles. **Derek Moat's** overdrive has gone on his Vauxhall and his efforts to get it repaired have caused some amusement. One of his phone calls to a Dutch agent went: "Do you speak English?"

Agent: "A little."

Derek: "Good, I will speak slowly."

Reply: "No, speak English."

Having got over this problem he continues: "The overdrive on my Vauxhall is US."

Reply: "Sorry, sir, we do not stock American spares."

At this point the conversation ended rather abruptly.

'Congratulations'

'Congratulations' to **Sergeant Bob Williamson** and **Corporal Derek Palmer** on passing the Yeoman's entrance examination and trust they will also be successful on the course once they are selected.

Variety is the Spice of Life in Hong Kong

253 Signal Squadron, B.F.P.O. 1

"It's somewhere out East I think"

WE have found that many soldiers receiving posting orders to 253 Squadron have been unsure of where we are and have little idea of what we do. We aim to put this right with these notes and have included some photographs. **Signalman 'Geordie' Humby** has suggested this will help those Squadron Officers and Seniors who may not be so good at reading.

City Boys and Country Cousins

The Squadron is based on the mainland of Hong Kong on the northern outskirts of the teeming city of Kowloon, but has one detached Troop at Sek Kong, about 12 miles away, amongst the hills and paddy fields.

We are responsible for all static communications in Hong Kong with the exception of Hong Kong Island. Our Linemen work on submarine cables (assisted by the local barge contractor—aptly named Ah Hoy), on underground cables in the middle of one of the most densely populated towns in the world, and on overhead routes running up to the observation posts on the border with Communist China.

We have ten telephone exchanges plus some VF installations. Our TE Technicians work on auto exchange equipment for Army units and headquarters, for the Royal Navy transmitter station on Stonecutters Island and for the RAF at Kai Tak airfield and the radar station at Tai Mo Shan which, at about 3,000 feet, is the highest point in Hong Kong.

Co-operating with the Coppers

Another of our jobs is providing the operational communications for 51 Infantry Brigade. These communications consist mainly of internal security radio and teleprinter networks. All I.S. operations are carried out in close co-operation with the Royal Hong Kong Police and joint headquarters known as 'Polmils' are set up at various police stations. Our Radio Operators man the stations at the Polmils and in the Rover vehicles. Our Comcen Operators man the 51 Brigade Comcen and also operate the emergency teleprinter terminals in the Polmils. Our radio technicians are responsible for I.S. radio equipment used by the Squadron, the R.M.P., four Infantry Battalions, and in 12 craft of the R.C.T. Maritime Troop.

Over the hills

Not all the radio is concerned with I.S. in the city areas. Every now and then 51 Brigade moves out to chase after 'rebels' in the rural areas and we are out and over the hills operating normal military radio nets. We also provide rear links with manpack sets (A13 or A1) for Remote Area Patrols which are sent out regularly to show the flag and gather information. Some areas are inaccessible by road and we have to make a lot of use of Army and RAF helicopters when working in the rural areas.

The local lads

Nearly half our soldiers are locally enlisted Chinese and many have been in the unit for over ten years—some for much longer. They qualify for their trades in the same way as British soldiers. All have been to the Signal Training Centre in Singapore and quite a few have been to Catterick. They are a cheerful crowd (downright noisy when playing mah-jong) and prove the story of the 'inscrutable oriental' to be something of a myth.

The sporting life

All sportsmen get a chance to 'do their thing' in 253 Squadron which has had a number of sporting successes. We have won the soccer league twice in the last three years. We have virtually swept the board at athletics. We have won the 51 Brigade orienteering for the last two years, beating teams from two Battalions. We have had a successful shooting season this year, although not quite equalling our previous effort when we won the 51 Brigade Competition outright. There is also cricket, rugby, basketball and swimming, although we have not actually *won* anything in these sports yet.

Shopping, splashing and sightseeing

Hong Kong is something of a shoppers' paradise. Many goods are available at much lower prices than in U.K. — although the cost of food is high. Most people manage to buy some particularly coveted items while they are here—cameras, hi-fi and electrical equipment, furniture, crockery and carpets are a few examples.

There is plenty of night-life in Hong Kong. If you are fond of Chinese cooking you will enjoy the Cantonese food which is reputed to be the best in the world. We have our own social events such as barbeques, dances and picnic parties on outlying beaches, but perhaps the most popular entertainment is the 'splash night.' This is held at a swimming pool by night and consists of drinking, dancing, supper and swimming—in any order or combination—and provides a golden opportunity to duck the O.C. in the pool.

There are many sights to be seen in Hong Kong (and we do not mean the Warrant Officers and Sergeants the morning after a Mess social). The Colony is crowded, colourful and full of contrasts. There are magnificent modern hotels and primitive rural villages, discotheques dispensing the latest 'beat' and ancient festivals and ceremonies to placate evil spirits. If you are willing to get out and about there is plenty to stimulate your interest and if you are a keen photographer you will never be short of a subject.

Jacks of all trades

We hope we have given some idea of life in 253 Squadron —but it is not the whole story. We seem to get involved in all sorts of 'irregular' activities. This year we have refurbished a swimming pool, given instruction to boys of the Y.M.C.A. and Scouts, supplied operators for Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' in Malaysia and provided an electricity supply in three remote villages—so if you should be on your way to us, be ready for anything.

ONE OF THE MANY ASPECTS OF LOCAL SIGNALLING

Line work in Kowloon. Corporal 'Monty' Wooley waits for something to turn up

PLENTY OF SPORT IN HONG KONG

The 253 Squadron Team which won the Royal Signals, 51 Brigade and Land Forces competitions

Back row: Signalman Humby, Corporal Innes, Corporal Kuester, Lance-Corporal West, Corporal Jones, Corporal Kent

Front row: Signalman Watson, Corporal Lund, Major Pickard (O.C.), Captain Law, Signalman Frisby

CHINESE CHOW HAS ITS ATTRACTIONS

Lance-Corporal Mick Blythe, Lance-Corporal Dave Pedley, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Nick Harries, Staff-Sergeant Lui Pak Hung and Corporal Ho Chee Hee sample a Cantonese delicacy

Specialist Teleprinter Operators

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Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum speed of 40 words per minute, and having a good knowledge of current communication procedures.

The pay rates are currently under review, but at present the basic starting pay, at age 25 or over, is £18.19.6. per week rising to £22.10.0. per week, inclusive of London Weighting. Successful candidates will currently be required to work shifts and overtime which, on average, attracts a further £8 to £10 per week. There are opportunities of promotion to almost £1,500 per annum basic pay.

If you would like further details, and are of British nationality, telephone 01-930 7022 extn. 5964/5, or write to:

CIVILIAN CAREERS ADVISER (T.W.)

Ministry of Defence, Room 134, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1.

1st Artillery Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron (257) B.F.P.O. 102

WE frozen-wasters from Eastern-Western Germany have thawed a little since our last bulletin in March, and by now you must be wondering what has happened to us.

Personalities

Since our last bulletin, our postings board has been somewhat like the arrivals and departures board of a busy main line railway station. We said farewell to **Corporals Brian Paice** and **Terrance Keedens, Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' McAlpine** (please come back and show us how to assemble those collapsible canoes!), **Signalmen Terry Tarring** and **Graham Briers, Selwyn Painter**—both sad losses to the football team—**'Geordie' Harrison,** who has now risen to greater things, we hear; **'Wee Ginge' Robinson,** of free-fall renown, and **Kevin Justice.**

We were joined by **Corporal Martin Hardy,** complete with his 'Avo' and City and Guilds; **Corporal 'Ginge' Usher** and **Lance-Corporal Ron Nelson,** both for 'Mike' Troop, and also by **Corporal Bill Burnham,** as Cypher Corporal. **Lance-Corporal Syd Buckley** has come to help solve some of the 'hairies'' more knotty D10 problems. Last, but by no means least, are **Signalman Dave Patten,** who joined the Q.M.'s empire, and **Private Mike Anderson,** A.C.C., who will, we hope, keep us marching on our stomachs. (No offence meant to the M.T.O., of course!).

Sport

The weather in June brought the Squadron's potential athletes out of their hibernation. **Captain Gordon Howard,** our resident and modest athletics team in himself, led the Squadron to first place in the Brigade Minor Units' Competition. **Captain Howard, Lance-Corporal Les Willmott, Lance-Corporal Dave Hughes, Lance-Bombardier Martin Mumby, Signalman Eric Ball, Signalman 'Polly' Perkins** and **Gunner 'Lew' Llewellyn,** ran and jumped themselves to victory in their various events. The day was concluded with an unexpected success in the 4 x 100 metres relay, the baton being speedily and safely taken round the track by **Captain Howard, Lance-Corporal Willmott, Signalman Pete Scott** and **Gunner Llewellyn.**

The Divisional Championships . . . well, that's another story.

The football team, as usual, has played its hard and fast, power-packed games, but, alas, against too many other hard, fast and power-packed teams! However, the exercise, if nothing else, has been refreshing!

Meanwhile, the squash players have bounced off the court walls; the occasional hockey player can still be seen limping around; **Corporal Martin Hardy** has glided, and **Second-Lieutenant Leslie Fox** went absent for two days in order to crew to fifth place in the B.A.O.R. Open Sailing Championship.

Exercises

In the field, as well as on the sports field, we have, 'in our own funny little way' had our successes.

Exercise 'Talons High,' the C.C.R. Signals exercise in March, found us in some pleasant and familiar positions—the most predominant one being horizontal, but still moving fast. Then in April, Exercise 'Spring Sales' was either sprung or sold by **Second-Lieutenant Fox** with a small detachment of assorted radio relaymen and technicians sending everything from 'revs and meter' to 50 DM notes down cct 711 in order to persuade the world in general that 1st Arty is 'alive and well and living somewhere in Transylvania!'

Exercise 'Summer Sales,' in June, was aided and abetted by **Captain Peter Pearson,** from 22nd Signal Regiment, and his amazing dancing bear, BRUIN. He and his detachment provided not only the added luxury of secure speech, but Mufax 50 DM notes which, we are glad to say, this time did not have to be fed back into the system.

A Brigade CPX, in July, saw us practising a few of our more warlike talents, which included digging-in in the impact area. An unexploded shell could well have rewarded the more ardent digger with not only a larger hole than he intended, but a somewhat spectacular, though probably long-awaited posting to Blighty—or even further!

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

THE jubilee celebrations having finally ended, our contribution returns to a more earthly plane and this month we feature two of our detachments, Akrotiri Main and Nicosia. We start with Akrotiri Main.

Akrotiri Main Detachment

The detachment enjoys one of the most pleasant sites of all our detachments, located as they are on the cliffs on Akrotiri airfield overlooking the Episkopi bay. This is an idyllic position in summertime, in spite of 'friendly' eastern bloc trawlers skulking around the bay. Winter is, however, a very different kettle of fish and the site was narrowly missed by the whirlwind which caused heavy damage to Akrotiri camp and Limassol last December. The detachment N.C.O. is **Sergeant Luis** of hockey and cricket fame. Unfortunately he broke his knee last December and missed most of the hockey season but has recovered in time for the cricket season. He is ably assisted by **Corporal Etchells** who is the Squadron resident motor-mechanic; when not at work he can usually be found underneath his or someone else's car. **Corporal Geary,** another of the workers, doubles as sports storeman in his spare time in addition to being a staunch hockey player. **Corporal Robinson** is another of the sporting contingent, you name it and he plays it. **Corporal Parsons** was also of the same ilk but departed to the green, green grass of Catterick and his T.I. and has been replaced by **Corporal Resoun** who has not had time to show his sporting potential. Last, but not least, we have **Corporal Bowles** who, by his own admission, keeps the station running whilst the rest support the various sports teams.

Nicosia Detachment

Now to our men in Nicosia, fresh from the labours of organising our Hilton thrash and once more getting down to full-time communicating. The detachment is located at RAF Nicosia, close to the 'fleshpots' of the capital city of Cyprus. It is a 'hot spot' both physically and technically, the main

NICOSIA DETACHMENT—STALWART SUPPORTERS OF ALL SQUADRON AND TROOP ACTIVITIES
Left to right: Corporal Hulme, Lance-Corporal Duncan, Corporal Warburton, Lance-Corporal Johnson (in rear), Corporal Lythaby and Sergeant Sanderson

purpose of the station being to serve the air traffic control centre at RAF Nicosia and because of this it is extremely important. The detachment is a part of East Troop. In spite of being somewhat out on a limb the members of the detachment are stalwart supporters of all Squadron and Troop activities. The detachment is commanded by **Sergeant Sander-**

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Recruiting Officer,
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son ably assisted by **Corporals Lythaby, Warburton, Hulme, Lance-Corporals Duncan** and **Johnson.** Although Nicosia is located on the central plain, with all its dust and heat, **Corporals Hulme** and **Warburton** still manage to get their fair share of scuba diving off the Kyrenia coast 15 miles away. This coastline is probably the most attractive in Cyprus, with an impressive backdrop of the Kyrenia mountains sloping down to a host of sandy bays. There is also a wealth of monasteries and abbeys in the mountains which are of immense historical interest.

Jordanian Signals presentation

We were recently visited by **Colonel Eld Mazahreh** of the Jordanian Signal Corps who spent a day with the Squadron visiting various sites and Radio Relay Engineering Control. The Colonel presented the Squadron with a badge of the Jordanian Signal Corps, mounted on a shield, as a gesture of goodwill between our two Corps.

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support)
B.F.P.O. 53

While the cat's away . . .

AUGUST, and judging by the number of empty chairs around the Squadron, leave seems to be the 'in' thing. Not least of those cashing in on the situation is the O.C., **Major Neil Grayson,** so we should be able to get away with murder in this month's notes. As readers may know he spends a lot of his time at 5,000 feet—literally. He is a qualified pilot and if one has eyesight quick enough one can often see him 'Honda-ing' up to the Nicosia Flying Club. It is debatable which goes faster, his car or his aeroplane. Regrettably we have no photograph to prove all this because our intrepid squadron photographer, **Sergeant David Smith,** almost 'D by P'd' when given the assignment of snapping the O.C. in action over the Kyrenia Hills—well, we did offer him a parachute and when this failed to placate him we had to promote him (he was a Corporal then) to keep his services.

Closed circuit television

Station Troop Episkopi have recently been tasked with installing CCTV in H.Q.'s NEARELF/NEAF. Earning the 'X' factor to the full **Corporal Dave Morris** and **Lance-Corporal Bob Large** could be seen scrambling around the outside of 'C' block doing the wiring—but no more. The G.O.C., **Major-General M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.,** not in the habit of seeing anyone passing his window, particularly as his office is on the top floor, became naturally curious to find out what was going on. The conversation may well have gone like this:

G.O.C. to A.D.C.: "Mike, I have just seen a soldier go past my window."

A.D.C.: "Yes sir" (thinks—it's not even Monday morning.)

G.O.C.: "Well get him in!"

(Enter **Lance-Corporal Bob Large** via A.D.C.'s window).

G.O.C.: "Any others working out there with you."

Lance-Corporal Large: "Just some RAF lads from 103 M.U., sir."

G.O.C.: "Well, I don't mind about them, but I don't want any soldiers getting killed."

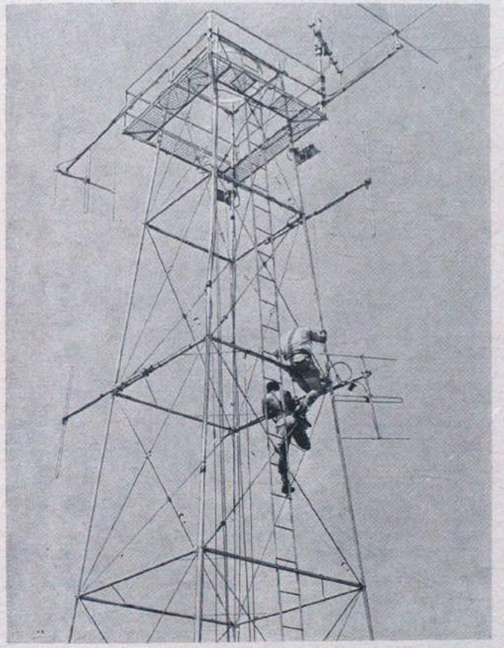
Cricket

After a fairly shaky start to the season the Squadron cricket team has gone from strength to strength under the adroit captaincy of **Corporal Ian Gilbert,** some spirited innings from **Signalman Fred Mandley, Corporal Ian Gilbert** and **Signalman Mick Kallmeier** and some steady bowling by the latter and **Lance-Corporal Chris Bond.** The team was entered for the Cyprus knock-out competition and as luck would have it we were drawn in the first round against the 'A' XI from 1 PWO who call themselves the Lions and considered themselves favourites for the championship. With a total of 92 to chase things looked black when we had lost nine wickets for a meagre 51 runs. However, we had not reckoned (nor fortunately had the Lions) with the skill and panache of **Sergeant Dave Gore** (18) and **Signalman Kallmeier** (48) who knocked off the deficit for the last wicket. At the time of writing the team is gearing itself up for the next round match against B.M.H., Dhekelia.

262 Signal Squadron (Cyprus)
B.F.P.O. 53

'Pye' in the sky

SINCE 15th June, Technician and Radio Troops have been busy with the installation and testing of the Squadron's new PYE radio equipment. As the three internal security radio nets for which we are responsible have stations in every Sovereign Base Area and retained site in Cyprus, the technicians involved put in very long hours and a good deal of travelling in order to be ready for the proving trial, which was successfully carried out in mid-July. No doubt all those who worked on the project in the past, and have since left the Squadron, will be as delighted as we are that the system is no longer 'Pye in the sky,' but a worthwhile reality, as shown by our photographs.



ONE OF THE MANY JOBS THAT'S ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK FOR THE CORPS

The old and the new. Lance-Corporal's Joe Gill and Mick Cranny installing PYE V.H.F. radio antennas on a 10 set tower

New block

After a number of unforeseen and unavoidable delays, we finally moved S.H.Q. into its new accommodation on 13th July. Although there are still some alterations to be completed, every department has found a marked improvement in working conditions, and in particular, the training rooms are proving their worth to the instructors and students of the current Radio Operator BIII course for potential Yeomen of Signals. Even so, students have been known to mutter that not even pleasant surroundings can dull the agony caused by large doses of morse, thoughtfully provided at frequent and regular intervals by the two experts, **Corporals George Coles** and **'Paddy' Service**!

Seafaring Signalman

Having been invited to 'arrange' some ship-to-shore communications for one of the R.P.L. of the nearby R.C.T. Port Squadron, we were quick to point out that the system could only be tested properly while the R.P.L. was at sea. The bargain was struck, and fired with enthusiasm by the recorded exploits of Royal Signals Ships Troops, **Signalman 'Frenchy' Pampel** carefully produced photographic evidence of his trip. He has assured us that he did not have to spend the whole voyage at the masthead, and the communications were successful—as always! (Regrettably, owing to pressure on space, we must accept his word only.—Editor).

Tug-of-war team

Although the exploits of our tug-of-war team were recorded in earlier issues of THE WIRE, a splendid action photograph of the team has only just been rescued from the depths of local PR archives. As the team has won the Royal Signals Cyprus Trophy for the last three years, we could not resist the temptation to show how it's done.

HEAVE!

How it's done, by the three-time winners of the Royal Signals Cyprus trophy

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION AND BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July, 1970:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Commanding 16th Signal Regiment (Gala Day) ...	154	3	6
St. Martin's Church (Reunion Service)	85	2	8
Officer Commanding 11th Signal Regiment	52	8	3
Officer Commanding 8th Signal Regiment	29	3	0
All Saints' Garrison Church, Herford (4th Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt. 50th Anniversary Service)	19	0	0
Officer Commanding 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) ...	8	0	0
Methodist Church, Catterick (Reunion Service)	10	0	0
Sergeants' Mess, 83 (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2	0	0
Wives' Club, 223 Signal Squadron	1	17	0
Major C. C. Tucker (Reunion) Catterick	7	9	8
Mrs. Trelaway c/o 14th Signal Regiment	5	5	0
H. Foster, Esq., M.B.E.	4	10	5
D. W. Lloyd-Davies, Esq.	1	5	0
Major G. M. Welsford	1	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel W. F. H. Herdon	1	0	0
R. A. Oswick, Esq.	1	0	0
T. A. Roberts, Esq.		16	6
Lieutenant-Colonel R. V. Lester		15	0
P. M. Longdon, Esq.		15	0
J. A. Springett, Esq.		10	0
Various individual donations	1	14	3
Total	£387	15	3

THE WELFARE SECTION STILL REQUIRES MORE CLOTHING

W.O.I (F. of S.) T. Stoddart, M.B.E.

W.O.I Stoddart was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year for services to the Volunteers whilst serving with 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers).

W.O.I (F. of S.) T. Stoddart, M.B.E.

He served with the Regiment from its formation in April, 1967, during the critical formative years of the Regiment and during a subsequent reorganisation of role in 1969, until February, 1970.

He contributed largely to the initiation of a sound, simple, viable system of communications in the Regiment and was responsible for the design and installation of the Gateway complex, which was later adapted for use in 13 Signal Group (V) as a whole.

The encouragement and guidance which **Tom Stoddart** gave to both the Volunteers and Regulars, by his technical innovations and improvements, won him their respect and admiration. For this and for the many other contributions he made, he will long be remembered with affection by members of the Scottish Signal Regiment.

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

Teesside Eisteddfod

WE can imagine the lifted eyebrows and polite scorn of the Llangollen enthusiasts at the thought of an Eisteddfod with a backdrop of iron smelters and ICI cooling towers. Notwithstanding the lack of green valleys, the sound of folk music, singing and dancing from 2,000 competitors from 28 countries has been echoing over the Tees. In all the major, public occasions, this Regiment has been well represented as we were responsible for all ceremonial. At the opening ceremony, an especial fanfare was sounded by eight of our Band, the music for the occasion being composed and conducted by **W.O.I (Bandmaster) S. R. Peacock.**

NORTHERN BAND

Some of 34 (N) Band who are playing in Teesside Parks and Gardens, with Band Sergeant J. L. Beasley

Military flexibility was well demonstrated in the middle of the 10-day festival, when the main auditorium was burnt to the ground. In spite of this disaster, the Eisteddfod continued successfully to a colourful and moving closing ceremony.

. . . and Teesside Regatta

Not perhaps identical to the Henley event, but Teesside Regatta, from Yarm to Stockton, were supported by communications provided by 90 (NR) Squadron. These local events are invaluable, both as a means of providing unusual and interesting exercises, by keeping us in the public eye for recruiting and by forming a solid link between the Regiment and local government and voluntary organisations.

. . . shows and parks

Pudsey show, Teesside show and Darlington show all see the Squadrons represented. The Band play at all the major parks and gardens. Billingham Festival, Red Cross rallies—the list is formidable. But the effort shows a profit as the recruiting graph bends slowly upwards.

New Adjutant

We welcome **Captain John Byrne** as Adjutant and trust he will enjoy his first tour with volunteers.

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V) Wanstead

The Corps Troops Annual Camp

858/859 Corps Signal Troops, raised last year in Eastbourne, are administered by this Regiment, but they form part of 22nd Signal Regiment, which they visited for the first time in June.

Saturday, 6th June, at 05.30, saw three officers and 29 other ranks, looking bleary-eyed, embussing to take them to Stanstead Airport for the plane to Germany. With no organised training on Sunday, they were able to settle-in and find their way around. The Troops have only a training scale of equipment in the U.K. and they spent Monday getting into the ways of the Regiment and becoming familiar with the lay-out of equipment, but a short break on Tuesday saw an opportunity to extend their knowledge of Germany, and a trip was arranged to the Soeste-Monese Dams.

Work started in earnest on Wednesday, when the Troops took part in Exercise 'Summer Sales.' Some formed complete detachments, others reinforced detachments of Regular soldiers. During the exercise, several of the personnel managed to get a trip in a helicopter, and one radio relay detachment commander even did his recce in one; he now insists that this is the only way the job should be done!

Everyone gained considerable experience from the exercise, and the knowledge of the environment and equipment in 22nd Regiment will give a boost to the coming year's training.

The Troops, under the command of **Captain Trevor Boocock,** felt that they acquitted themselves well and they were enthusiastic about the nature of the welcome and the help they received from 22nd Regiment.

Only trained soldiers could go to Germany, and other members of the Troops attended training courses at Catterick. They look forward to returning to Germany next year in much greater strength.

The Troops at Eastbourne

Shortly before camp, the Troops provided a guard of honour when **The Duke of Norfolk** performed the opening ceremony of the Wish Tower—an old Martello Tower—as a museum. This impressive ceremony was attended by about 800 local people and provided a different kind of activity and good publicity for the Troops.

The Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting

This was again held on the ranges at Colchester, in rather unsettled weather. This did not dampen the keenness of the competition, and honours were shared fairly equally between the Squadrons. In addition to the more serious activities, there was clay pigeon shooting for all and a .22 competition for the ladies. We are grateful to the Commanding Officer's wife, **Mrs. M. L. Willway** for presenting the prizes.

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

THE Regiment said farewell to **Colonel Ronnie Walker** in late May and welcomed **Colonel John Findlater** to the 'hot seat.' 'Hot seat' it was, for annual camp was but three weeks away, and those readers who are members of, or who have served with the T. & A.V.R., will know the all-pervading turmoil which precedes the 'proof of a year's work.'

Here, there and everywhere

In late June, detachments went off to Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar and B.A.O.R.; however, the Parachute Squadron of the Regiment were most disappointed because the R.A.F. cancelled the Yorkshire drop due to bad weather, and later, the B.A.O.R. drops for the same reason. The final drop, into Scarborough Bay, was cancelled because of a shortage of parachutes (they have to be written off after immersion in sea water). The crowds in Scarborough were therefore spared the sight of members of the Regiment being rescued from the sea by a flotilla of small boats from the Scarborough Yacht Club.

Visitors' Day

Camp Visitors' Day started at the Catterick training area with the arrival of our guests by air and car from all over England and Scotland; **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** was most kind and placed the Mess at our disposal for a most excellent lunch after a visit to the field site.

Our visitors then either drove or flew to Scarborough, where the Regiment was beginning to assemble 'from all parts' for the last few days of camp. Here they saw the trainees in the morse and typing classes (we use 'sight and sound' for both, and are obtaining amazing results).

Dinner Night

The Dinner Night, at which the Mayor of Scarborough was the chief guest, was held in the Grand Hotel. Our military guests were **Brigadier H. R. W. Vernon, C.B.E.,** B.G.S., Southern Command; **Brigadier J. D. T. Brett, O.B.E.,** C.S.O., Southern Command; **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe, M.B.E.,** Commander, Training Brigade; **Colonel J. Rankin,** D.D., W.R.A.C., Southern Command, and **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** Commanding Officer, 11th Signal Regiment. There were also a number of civilian guests.

After an all ranks' dance and a free day, camp finished with a Regimental parade, the salute being taken by the Honorary Colonel, **Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C.**

Amusing moments

Camp certainly had its amusing moments; think of the detachment which attended the all ranks' dance in the Cyprus Hilton; or the Squadron whose members were made honorary members of the Warders' Mess of ——— open prison, affectionately known as the 'Screw's bar at ——— nick'; or the field detachment who spent the night in the cells at Sennelager guardroom; or the Cook Sergeant who said, patting the C.O. on the arm, after a visit to the cookhouse, "Don't forget, pop in any time"; or the person who asked the Regimental Padre what he did in civilian life!

We are now looking forward to a number of overseas exercises during the next few months; more suitable weather for our parachutists, and a busy festive season.

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

Situation

THE ever-present threat of civil disturbance has placed severe restrictions on outside training, and our long-term plans, carefully worked out last September, are being changed 'daily, daily.' Yet, despite the fact that our friends, the Gunners of 16 Light Air Defence Regiment, over here for a spot of Infantry training, are occupying our classrooms, and we have to travel to our centres in civilian clothes, plus many other irritating hindrances, our attendances are growing. The papers and television give a false picture of life over here, which is quite normal, except for a small part of Belfast, and a few extremists, life is its usual, good-humoured, pleasant Irish self.

Mission

40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) is to maintain its present high *esprit de corps*, come UVF or Liffy Water.

Execution

The Permanent Staff are to use even more imagination and ingenuity to ensure that training remains interesting and progressive, and brings the 90 new recruits and 45 tradesmen up to pass off/trade test standard for our annual camp at Scarborough.

Major Graham Campbell, our new Training Major, fresh from Singapore, is to be pushed in at the deep end, where his preference for Guinness will ensure he swims powerfully.

The C.O., who, during his 18 months here has almost 'gone native,' gaining a thorough grasp of Ulster's idiom, and complex cultural difficulties, is to ensure he maintains his sanity by clinging to the one thing remaining from his Scottish tour —Glenfiddich (pure malt for the uninitiated).

Staff Sergeant Gordon Bailey is to claim an all-time record; the photograph shows his contribution up to 1st July, since when **Signalman Darley** has, in turn, introduced his sister and his fiancée to the Regiment, making a total of five Baileys and three Darleys to date.

BUDDING TAKE OVER MOVEMENT

The Bailie family with relatives, in-laws and what have you now muster a total of eight members in the Regiment. Founder members below:—

Left to right, standing Ronnie Gillian (nephew), Gordon Bailie (the grand old man)

Sitting: Gordon Bailie (junior), Brenda Bailie (nee Smith), Nan Darley (nee Bailie), Derek Darley—(work all this out if you can

798 Medium Radio Troop, under **Lieutenant Bill Nesbitt,** is to consolidate the experience gained in providing radio communications for race metings, sponsored walks, rallies, fetes, barbecues and long-distance swims.

Admin. and Logistics

The A.C.C. detachment, under **Sergeant Dunseith,** are to make full use of the joint occupation of their kitchen with the regular cooks, to ensure that their proud boast that 'the same meal is never served more than once in any one year' is maintained.

The L.A.D. is to continue to 'sweep the route' under **Staff Sergeant Stevenson,** but if the Scammel, which is the oldest member of the Regiment, could be BER (**B**elatedly and **E**verlastingly **R**etired) we would **B**e **E**ver **R**ejoicing.

Command and Signal

H.Q., 12 Signal Group in London are to be thanked for allowing us to have a fortnight's stand-down during the 'Glorious Twelfth' holiday period.

The Regimental Shooting Team reported by signal from Bisley that **Signalman Joe Collins** not only won the 'Young Soldiers' Competition' for the T.A.R.A. Meeting, but also qualified for the T.A.V.R. 50 Medal. The rest of the team confined themselves to winning prize money, gaining the 'know-how' for next year, and taking pride in the fact that they were the only Royal Signals volunteer team at Bisley in the year when the Corps when the Methuen Trophy.

71st Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Bromley & South East England

Excellent progress

SINCE our last write-up, we have continued to make excellent progress in every direction. The long-awaited receipt of our equipment and establishment tables, at the end of last year, enabled us to demand the many vehicles and scaled equipments we had been lacking for so long. For more than two months, the 'Q' Department resembled a goods depot, with convoys of trucks arriving daily to unload the 'goodies,' and the frenzied activity continued until these had been redistributed to our far-flung Squadrons and Troops. Inevitably, there are vital items we want, but cannot get, and in time we hope that these, too, can be crossed off our shopping list.

Even a rum issue

The Regimental weekend training exercises were held at Crowborough Camp in March and April this year. The first, Exercise 'Open Door I,' gave everyone the opportunity of showing what they had learned since our formation and, purposely ambitious, it required the regional Squadrons to operate the FSK broadcast system on the premise that if they could do this they could do anything. The SR C12 detachments also were kept busy in the surrounding area. In spite of sub-zero temperatures and heavy snow—perhaps helped by a well organised and welcome rum issue, things worked. This was just as well, because it was the rehearsal for Exercise 'Open Door II,' a month later, when we were subjected to our first Fitness for Role Inspection by Commander, 13th Signal Group (V). Again, all went very well indeed, in spite of heavy rain this time. **Brigadier Robertson** presented awards to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) G. E. C. Delaney,** 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex Meritorious Service Certificate; **Sergeant J. A. Andrews** (P.S.I.), the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal; **Corporal A. J. Petty,** 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron, the T.A. Efficiency Medal, and to **Corporal K. W. Flint,** of 884 Signal Troop, the G.S.M.

The inspection, too, went well, as was evidenced by a message to the Regiment from our Honorary Colonel, **Major-General John Anderson, C.B.E.,** who said how pleased he was to be told of the very satisfactory performance put up by all departments of the Regiment.

Realistic distances for radio links

Thereafter, we were all busy preparing for annual camp, which took place from 30th May to 13th June. The location, Scarborough—for the second year running—was somewhat of a misnomer, except for H.Q. Squadron, as the regional Squadrons deployed direct to Exercise 'Red Shoes II' locations, never saw Scarborough until the second week of camp. Wathgill Camp, at Catterick, the Engineer training areas at Ripon and the Strensall training area were used with a Squadron H.Q. and A.F.H.Q. Troop at each, their subordinate Signal Troops being located at the other two sites. This provided for realism in distances worked with the SR D11s and, at the same time, reduced our administrative overheads to a minimum. An account of this exercise has been given elsewhere, suffice to say that the communication system worked well and the Squadrons benefited immeasurably from the experience and the practice. Sound and continuous logistic support was provided throughout the exercise by H.Q. Squadron, from the Scarborough base.

The second week of camp provided a mixture of training—adventure training on the moors, radio exercises, trade boards, and for many who were avidly thirsting for more technical knowledge, classroom instruction in antenna theory and the finer points of the D11. Thank goodness the weather held fine—hardly a drop of rain the whole fortnight. Any dehydration was completely rectified by the Squadron parties held during the second week and, with our new-found friends on H.M.S. *Eskimo,* which was visiting Scarborough during the final days of camp.

(Continued on page 436)

Brigadier Robertson, Commander 13 Signal group meets Signalman Jugdish Singh of 94 (Berks Yeo) Signal Squadron, Windsor Troop

THE OLD BOYS LEARN

Pensioner Sergeants Fordham and Davis learn a bit about modern radio at Scarborough Camp. Instructing them W.O.II. (F. of S.) Jackson

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For more details please write to 'The Defence Attache, Zambia High Commission, 7-11, Cavendish Place, London W.1.

(Continued from page 434)

RECRUITING DRIVE FOR 71ST REGIMENT?
Not really—this T.A.V.R. Centre was the polling station in the Prime Minister's own constituency of Bexleyheath

Inter-Squadron Shield

The Inter-Squadron Shield was presented for the first time to 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron for their overall progress and ability since formation. The final order of merit had been a closely-guarded secret by our C.O., but he let it be known that it was a close thing, and that next year may see another Squadron title engraved on the second plaque.

Last month the H.Q. Squadron T. & A.V.R. Centre at Bexleyheath was taken over as a polling station and we were honoured, late in the evening, by the presence of the **Rt. Hon. Edward Heath,** for his return as M.P., and the new Prime Minister. Listeners to the B.B.C. coverage may recall the reporter referring to **Mr. Heath's** majority as "appearing more secure than this drill hall." We have been using that comment as a lever to obtain more locks for the doors, but no one accepts the necessity. Perhaps the remark had some other connotation which has escaped us.

Next autumn will see us participating in CPXs, and these will give further valuable experience and know-how to supplement an increasingly effective knowledge of our role.

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Successfully adapting to a new role in the Corps

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (Volunteers) Berkshire

AFTER training and fighting for over 200 years as Cavalry, Dragoons, Dismounted Cavalry, Cyclists and Artillerymen, the Berkshire Yeomanry has successfully adapted to its new role with the Royal Corps of Signals.

Raised as eleven independent Troops of Cavalry before 1794, the Troops raised at Windsor and Reading are the direct forerunners of one Troop and the Headquarters of the present Squadron.

The 'Windsor Foresters'

In 1794, to meet the threat of a French invasion, the Troops at Maidenhead, Reading and Windsor amalgamated to form the 5th Regiment of Fencible Cavalry 'The Windsor Foresters.' A change of name in 1803 to 1st Berkshire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry was followed by another in 1853 to The Royal Berkshire Yeomanry Cavalry, under which title it saw action in South Africa in 1900. In 1901 the title changed to The Berkshire Imperial Yeomanry, and in that year it was entrusted with the mounted duties at Windsor for Queen Victoria's funeral.

Action at Gallipoli

Reverting to the title Berkshire Yeomanry in 1908, the Regiment next saw action at Gallipoli in 1916 where, during the attack on Hill 70, **Trooper F. W. O. Potts** won the V.C. for 'most conspicuous bravery in rescuing a wounded comrade under heavy fire.' This was the first Yeomanry V.C. of World War I, a war in which action was subsequently seen in Egypt, Palestine and Flanders, in a variety of roles.

Converted to Artillery between the wars, the Regiment fought in India, Malaya and Java as the 145th (Berkshire Yeomanry Field Regiment R.A. (T.A.) becoming part of 299th Field Regiment R.A. (T.A.) in 1957, before reverting to Cavalry in 1961 as The Berkshire and Westminster Dragoons R.A.C. (T.A.).

The Windsor Squadron converted to Infantry in 1967 as 'A' (Berkshire Yeomanry) Company of The Royal Berkshire Territorials before adopting its present role in 1969, when joined by Signals Troops from Southampton and Reading.

Commanded by **Major F. K. Bailey,** the Squadron has recently carried its famous 'Berkshire Horse' collar badges through a successful fitness for role inspection with its Regiment—71st Signal Regiment (V) commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Baker.**

With an illustrious history, both on and off the battlefield to uphold, The Berkshire Yeomanry has entered its new life in a new Corps with the same pride, confidence and determination which has always brought it success.

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Report on Corps Shooting 1970

By the Captain of Corps Shooting

[Courtesy Thomas Wilkie F.R.P.S., A.I.B.P., 41/42 Drummond Rd., Guildford

IT TOOK 12 YEARS TO WIN THIS ONE!
The Methuen Challenge Cup and the team that won it for the corps
Left to right, **Corporal G. L. Jaques, Captain D. C. N. Genders, Major P. Carr, Lieutenant D. J. McLean, Corporal C. M. Blowman, Staff-Sergeant E. R. R. Smith**

IN the opening paragraphs of last year's report it was possible to comment favourably upon the glorious weather which we all enjoyed; as the out-door types well know, this year's shooting weather precludes any such comment. All too frequently it was a case of waiting for visibility to lift and allow us to see the targets at 300 metres.

The real problem in compiling this report is knowing just where to start! As the person who has been sitting at the centre of the spider's web, so to speak, it seemed to be an unending stream of signals—telephone calls—and competitors walking into the gunroom at Bisley saying, "Guess what we have just won."

Perhaps anyone who feels deserving of a mention, and is not covered in this article, will forgive me and accept the reason that 'our cup runneth over.' Two units which richly deserve praise are once again 3rd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment, and 30th Signal Regiment; the former because for the seventh successive year they have made a quite excellent job of hosting and administering the STRATCO/SOUTHCO - Corps rifle meetings at Bulford; the latter for yet again producing the most cheerful and hardworking army of butt-markers it has been our good fortune to shoot with. On behalf of all the Corps competitors, our very grateful thanks to everyone who helped make the Bulford meetings so thoroughly enjoyable.

As a departure from the usual chronological order of write-up, it does seem more appropriate this year to give prominence to the two major successes enjoyed by the Corps team, and also give the reader an insight into 'beneath the surface' activities concerning both events.

The Methuen Cup Match, 1970

This match is fired under National Rifle Association rules and is open to teams of six riflemen drawn from Commands, Corps, Divisions of Infantry; each team therefore is selected from a potential strength of about 5,000 men wearing the same cap-badge or insignia. This year 27 such teams competed.

The conditions specify deliberate shooting at 500m., fire and movement from 500m. down to 100m., rapid and snap shooting at 300m., thus providing a comprehensive test of battlefield-type firing.

The match itself proved to be something of a 'cliff-hanger' and by no means as easy as the winning margin of 30 points would appear to indicate. The fluctuating fortunes came in the following order:

Practice 1 (*500m. deliberate*)
The team ended in 8th position, 17 points behind Naval Air Command.

Practice 2 (F. & M. 500-100m.)

The R.N. and R.M. teams had a disastrous run-down, leaving the Corps team now in 4th place, 10 points behind the new leaders—R.A.O.C.

Practice 3 (300m. rapid)

Three respectable scores by the R.A.O.C., Para and Royal Signals left the Corps team 2nd to R.A.O.C. by just three points, with the Para breathing down our necks a mere five points behind.

Practice 4 (300m. snap)

Both the R.A.O.C. and Para teams managed to complete their snap shooting before us, so fortunately (or unfortunately) the gallant band of supporters manning our own scoreboard were able to calculate exactly what the last three firers needed for a winning score. It worked out at 33—33—32. Only the team captain was informed of this fact, and as he was in the last detail to fire, promptly suffered a mild heart attack. All went well, however, and a comfortable margin of points was achieved.

The celebrations which followed in the evening gave cause for deep concern (the following morning), because all members of the team, and the reserves, were firing in the Army Hundred Cup. They were easily distinguishable throughout the morning by virtue of constantly wearing their ear-defenders, and having their eyes focused on infinity!

It may interest some older members of the Corps, whilst inducing the younger ones to greater efforts, to read of those who have shot for the Methuen over the years:

Major G. A. S. Exell, 1950-59-61-63-64-65-68; **Major P. Carr,** 1959-60-64-65-66-69-70; **Colonel H. J. Thompson,** 1948-49-50-51-57-58; **Captain D. C. N. Genders,** 1962-65-66-67-69-70; **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith,** 1964-66-67-68-69-70; **Lieutenant-Colonel M. S. Jarrett,** 1959-60-65-66-67; **Captain D. H. Insall,** 1959-63-64-65-66.

Five appearances gains admission to the roll.

The African Cup, 1970

This cup is awarded to the 'Corps team of H.M. Forces' gaining the highest number of place points in the 11 service rifle matches and the SMG match, fired during the National Rifle Meeting. As such it represents the acme of consistent markmanship from the team of four firers.

All praise is due to the team shown below for being the first British Army team to win the cup, and therefore the N.R.A. Service Rifle Championship:

Rifle:
Captain D. C. N. Genders, Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, Corporal C. M. Blowman, Corporal G. L. Jaques.

SMG:
Captain D. C. N. Genders, Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith, Corporal G. L. Jaques, Lance-Corporal R. G. Kingham.

N.R.A. CENTRAL MEETING, 1970
Fired at Bisley 13th-25th July

African Cup
1st, Royal Signals (Team Championship).

Brinsmead Shield
1st, Royal Signals (500m. deliberate).

Hythe Cup
1st, Royal Signals (300m. snap).

Mappin Trophy, Canada Trophy, Roberts Trophy
3rd, Royal Signals (300m. rapid, 500m.-100m. F. & M., 300m. snap).

Individual achievements
Service Rifle Championship
2nd, **Corporal G. L. Jaques;** 7th, **Captain D. C. N. Genders.**

Imperial Tobacco Cup
1st, **Captain D. C. N. Genders.**

B.S.A. Trophy
2nd, **Captain D. C. N. Genders.**

Wantage Trophy
3rd, **Captain D. C. N. Genders.**

The following members of the Corps represented the Army in various matches fired during the National Meeting:

a. *Service Rifle—Army VIII*
Corporal C. M. Blowman.

b. *Service Pistol—Army VIII*
Lieutenant V. J. Reed.

c. *Target Rifle—Army XII, Long Range*
Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson, Major P. Carr, Captain D. C. N. Genders.

d. *Target Rifle—Army XII, Short Range*
Major J. Cox, Major P. Carr, Captain D. C. N. Genders.

Two members of the Corps qualified for that most select band of marksmen, the Queen's Hundred. They were:
Colonel (retd.) H. J. Thompson, Captain D. C. N. Genders.

A.R.A. CENTRAL MEETING
Fired at Bisley/Ash/Pirbright 1st-11th July

The Methuen Cup
1st, Royal Signals.

The R.E.M.E. Trophy
1st, Royal Signals (Top Army Team in Methuen).

The Woolwich Trophy
1st, Royal Signals (R.A. v. R.E. v. Royal Signals).

The Brook Bond Cup
1st, 30th Signal Regiment.

The Stock Exchange Cup
1st, 30th Signal Regiment.

The T.R. Team Match
1st, School of Signals.

The R.U.R. Cup
2nd, 21st Signal Regiment.

The Britannia Trophy
2nd, 30th Signal Regiment.

The K.R.R.C. Cup—Major Unit Championship
5th, 30th Signal Regiment; 9th, 21st Signal Regiment.

Individual achievements
The Bisley Cup
1st, **Colonel H. J. Thompson,** score 145/150; 2nd, **Major P. Carr,** 145/150; 16th, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. V. Walsh,** 139/150; 17th, **Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Gilbertson,** 139/150.

The SMG XXX
16th, **Lance-Corporal R. G. Kingham** (30th Signal Regiment); 19th, **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith** (21st Signal Regiment); 23rd, **Lieutenant V. J. Reed** (21st Signal Regiment); 29th, **Captain D. C. N. Genders** (H.Q. 4 Division).

The Pistol XXX
5th, **Lieutenant V. J. Reed** (21st Signal Regiment); 9th, **Captain D. C. N. Genders** (H.Q. 4 Division); 17th, **Lieutenant J. P. Munnery** (R.M.C.S.); 21st, **Lieutenant D. J. McLean** (30th Signal Regiment).

ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS SKILL AT ARMS MEETING, 1970
Fired on Bulford Ranges 22nd-26th June

The paper involved with this meeting was almost unbelievable; with an all-time record of the maximum 120 competitors, the STATS tent seemed to be permanently swamped in squad-

(Continued from page 440)

ding cards. Game to the end, however, the STATS staff had everything correctly worked out by the time **Major-General David Price** returned from the falling plate competition to award the prizes.

The team captains this year had voted to decide the major and minor unit championships on place points rather than gun-scores, and the results were as follows:

Champion Team Major Units—8 entries
1st, 30th Signal Regiment, 49 points; 2nd, 7th Signal Regiment, 38; 3rd, 21st Signal Regiment, 36.

Champion Team Minor Units—8 entries
1st, 11th Signal Regiment, 40 points; 2nd, 8th Signal Regiment, 38; 3rd, H.Q. Squadron 14th Signal Regiment, 32.

Individual Championship—120 entries
Class 'A': 1st, **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith,** 21st Signal Regiment, score 665; 2nd, **Lieutenant V. J. Reed,** 21st Signal Regiment, 660; 3rd, **Major P. Carr,** School of Signals, 642.

Class 'B': 1st, **Corporal G. L. Jaques,** 30th Signal Regiment, 647; 2nd, **Lance-Corporal Turner** (R.E.M.E.), 7th Signal Regiment, 600; 3rd, **Lance-Corporal Hindle,** 30th Signal Regiment, 599.

Roupell Cup—120 entries
Winning team: 30th Signal Regiment.
Winning score: **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith,** 74/80.

Whitehead Cup—120 entries
Winning team: 30th Signal Regiment.
Winning score: **Signalman Locke,** 74/80.

Association Cup—120 entries
Winning team: 30th Signal Regiment.
Winning score: **Staff Sergeant E. R. R. Smith,** 172/200.

Roberts Cup
Winning score: **Lieutenant Singleton,** 98/100.

Army 100 Cup
Winning score: **Corporal Jaques,** 178/200.

SMG XXX Cup
Winning score: **Lance-Corporal Kingham,** 116/150.

Bisley Cup
Winning score: **Major Carr,** 141/150.

Pistol XXX Cup
Winning score: **Captain Genders,** 86/120.

Para Cup
Winning team: 21st Signal Regiment.

Small Arms Cup
Winning team: 21st Signal Regiment.

WARNING ORDER, BULFORD, 1971

All team captains should be prepared to fire the next Bulford meetings on the gallery range only. Just in case neither of the two new E.T.R. ranges is in use in time, an alternative programme of gallery shoots will be put forward for consideration at the A.G.M. in December, 1970.

To all the 'gun-nuts' in the Corps, thank you gentlemen for your splendid support this season, and remember that the time to start preparing for Bisley, 1971, was yesterday!

Letter from the Adjutant-General to the S.O.-in-C.

"I was delighted to see in the final results of this year's A.R.A. and N.R.A. at Bisley that the Royal Corps of Signals had done so very well. Not only have you won the much-coveted Methuen and Brook Bond Cups, but to cap it all, you have walked off with the Inter-Unit Championship.

This is a tremendous achievement and could not come at a better time than in your 50th Anniversary Year.

Would you please pass my warmest congratulations to all those who took part, and in particular to **Colonel Thompson,** for his success in winning the N.R.A. Silver Medal and Bisley Cup."

Corps Cricket

Corps v. R.C.T.

Played at Aldershot on 10th/11th June.
Corps 110 (**Kilvington** 32; **Stanbridge** 22) and 146 (**Kilvington** 40; **Williamson** 39).
R.C.T. 107 (**Kilvington** 6 for 47; **Franks** 4 for 42) and 92 for 6 wickets (**Kilvington** 4 for 44; **Franks** 2 for 42).

Corporal Kilvington (School of Signals) and **Corporal Franks** (10th Signal Regiment) were both in fine form with the ball. On the second day a thunderstorm caused the match to be abandoned as a draw; R.C.T. scoring 96 for 6 and still needing 54 runs for victory.

Corps v. R.E.M.E.

Played at Aborfield on 16th/17th June.
Corps 131 (**Stanbridge** 36; **Price** 23) and 157 for 7 wickets (**Williamson** 53; **Forster** 22; **Kilvington** 22).
R.E.M.E. 100 (**Stanbridge** 4 for 26; **Radford** 3 for 22; **Kilvington** 2 for 21) and 146 (**Thatcher** 3 for 44; **Kilvington** 2 for 23).

In their second innings, the Corps set R.E.M.E. to make 183 in 170 minutes, but accurate bowling and some excellent fielding won the game for the Corps by 37 runs.

Corps v. Royal Marines

Played at Portsmouth on 19th June.
Marines 118 (**Kilvington** 5 for 24; **Stanbridge** 3 for 44).
Corps 120 for 7 wickets (**Seales** 25 not out; **Symmons** 22).

The Marines found scoring off **Kilvington** and **Stanbridge** very difficult—particularly **Kilvington,** who took five wickets for 24 runs. The Corps, in their turn, found runs far from easy, and at one time they were 73 for seven wickets, until **Corporal Seales** (24th Regiment) and **Captain Radford** (11th Signal Regiment) came together and knocked an undefeated 47 runs, to give the Corps victory by three wickets.

Corps v. R.A.C.

Corps 157 (**Franks** 59; **Stanbridge** 45; **Kilvington** 20) and 216 for 6 wickets declared (**Carr-Smith** 89; **Williamson** 75 not out).
R.A.C. 152 (**Kilvington** 5 for 20; **Radford** 4 for 30) and 121 (**Stanbridge** 4 for 26; **Kilvington** 3 for 28).

Some fine batting in the Corps second innings by **Captain Carr-Smith** (Mons O.C.S.), who got 89 and **Lance-Corporal Williamson** (School of Signals) who scored 75, and some more deadly bowling by **Kilvington,** who took 5 for 20 in R.A.C.'s first innings and 3 for 28 in the second innings, backed up by high standard fielding by the Corps eleven, paved the way to a fine Corps victory by 100 runs against strong opposition.

Corps v. R.E.

Played at Chatham on 15th/16th July.
Corps 160 for 8 declared and 153.
R.E. 135 for 3 wickets and 132 for 7.
Match drawn.

The Corps have now played five matches, won three and drawn two.

Harrogate Lance-Corporal's remarkable achievement in Inter-Services Foil Championship

Extract from a letter to the Commandant, Army Apprentices' College, from the Hon. Secretary, Army Fencing Union:

"On behalf of the President and Committee of the Army Fencing Union I have pleasure in forwarding the Army representative Colours for fencing which the Committee has awarded to **Lance-Corporal S. Graham** for his remarkable achievement in gaining third place in the final of the Inter-Services' Foil Championship, held on 23rd July during the Royal Tournament, Earls' Court.

"The final pool consisted of 12 senior experienced fencers from the RN, Army and RAF, and **Graham** only conceded losses to the eventual winner and previous winners of this particular event.

"It is interesting to note that **Graham** is the first Junior Soldier ever to fence at the Royal Tournament and together with this distinction he is the first Junior to be awarded Army representative Colours for fencing.

"My Committee would be most grateful if you could find it possible to present the Colours to him officially and congratulate him accordingly on their behalf please."

Corps Canoeists achieve resounding success in B.A.O.R. and Eire

The annual B.A.O.R. Long Distance Championships, on the River Weser, consist of a sprint upstream of nine kilometres, where competitors have to carry kit and, after bivouacing that night, race downstream for 65 kilometres throughout the next day.

Results of the men's races were as follows:

Class 1A: 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment—1st and 2nd.
Class 2A: 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment—1st and 2nd.
Class 3A: 4 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment—1st; 2nd Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment—3rd.
Class 4A: 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment—1st and 2nd.

Representing 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment were **Lance-Corporal Pawlow** and **Lance-Corporal Wink, Corporal Bull** and **Lance-Corporal Story, Corporal Bingham, Corporal Curran** (R.E.), **Signalman Harwood, Signalman Buckler, Gunner Taylor, Lance-Corporal Harper** and **Signalman Carter.**

It is interesting to note that this is the third time that the 2 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment K2 team led by **Wink** and **Pawlow** have won these championships. This year, both Corps Class 2A crews (**Pawlow/Wink** and **Bull/Story**) broke the upstream and downstream records by nearly half an hour, an outstanding performance by Corps canoeists—the sort of thing we are now begining to expect from Corps Canoe Clubs.

Earlier in the season, at Mulheim on the River Ruhr, the B.A.O.R. sprint championships were held. This was the first time ever for some of our W.R.A.C. canoeists from B.A.O.R. and was yet again another sweeping victory for Corps canoeists. Results as follows:

CLASS 1A

Lance-Corporal Pawlow, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—1st.
Lance-Corporal Wink, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—2nd.

CLASS 2A

Lance-Corporal Pawlow and **Lance-Corporal Wink,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—1st.

CLASS 3A

Lance-Corporal Pawlow, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—1st.
Lance-Corporal Wink, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—2nd.
Corporal Bingham, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—3rd.

CLASS 4A

Lance-Corporal Pawlow and **Lance-Corporal Wink,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—1st.
Corporal Bingham and **Corporal Curran (R.E.),** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—3rd.

CLASS 1B

Signalman McKendrick, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—1st.
Corporal Bingham, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—2nd.
Signalman Harwood, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—3rd.

CLASS 2B

Corporal McSorley and **Signalman Chandler,** 16 Sig. Regt.—2nd.
Signalman McKendrick and **Signalman Harwood,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—3rd.
Captain Harrison and **Signalman Carter,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—4th.
Signalman White and **Signalman Ayres,** 16 Sig. Regt.—5th.

CLASS 3B

Signalman McKendrick, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—2nd.
Signalman Harwood, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—5th.
Signalman White, 16 Sig. Regt.—6th.
Signalman Carter, 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—8th.

CLASS 4B

Corporal McSorley and **Signalman Chandler,** 16 Sig. Regt.—1st.
Captain Harrison and **Signalman Carter,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—2nd.
Signalman White and **Signalman Ayres,** 16 Sig. Regt.—3rd.
Signalman McKendrick and **Signalman Harwood,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—4th.
Corporal Bingham and **Corporal Curran, R.E.,** 2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.—5th.

MIXED DOUBLES

Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Private Pemberton—1st.
Lance-Crporal Wink/Lance-Corporal McHahon—2nd.
Signalman White/Private Amos—3rd.

Stop Press

News has just come in as we go to press of some remarkable successes by Corps canoeists in the 1970 International Liffey Descent Canoe meeting. Held each year in Eire on the River Liffey, they are a series of the most important races in the European calendar and attract the very cream of European canoeists of international class. Quite undaunted by the high level of this opposition, the Corps by gaining a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in three classes have, it is believed, **achieved a canoeing feat not before equalled by any single club in the international field.**

Results in the events in which the Corps competed were:

Class 2: **Lance-Corporal Pawlow/Lance-Corporal Wink** (2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.)—2nd.
Class 3: **Lieutenant M. E. Harrison** (School of Signals)—3rd.
Class 4: **Corporal Bull / Lance-Corporal Story** (2 Div. H.Q. and Sig. Regt.)—1st.

Full details in the next issue of THE WIRE.

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Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
Oakley,
Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM,
Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone: Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

30th SIGNAL REGIMENT'S MARKSMEN WITH THEIR TROPHIES

Back row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Carr, Corporal McKnight, Corporal Rennoldson, Signalman Bonelle, Lance-Corporal Taylor, Corporal Bartrop, Lance-Corporal Keighley, Corporal Dryland, Signalman Harris, Corporal McBain, Corporal Beighton, Lance-Corporal Hindle and Lance-Corporal Davidson

Front row, left to right: Corporal Purkiss, Lieutenant D. McLean, Major G. H. Cowsill, Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose (Commanding Officer), 2/Lieutenant J. Dyer W.R.A.C., Lance-Corporal Kingham

Badminton—now an officially sponsored Corps sport

THIS year, for the first time, the Corps will be represented officially in the Army Badminton League.

Details of the league are not yet finalised, but matches will be held on 3rd October, 14th November, 5th December, and 16th January, 1971. Each of the matches will be triangular in nature, with both matches taking place together. Because of this, the normal team of six will probably be extended to ten.

In order to pick the best team, it is proposed to hold a Royal Signals tournament on Wednesday, 30th September, and Thursday, 1st October, at the School of Signals, Blandford. Events in this tournament will be—open doubles, unit doubles, men's singles, mixed doubles, doubles plate, singles plate, veterans (handicap).

Throughout the tournament, Carlton International plastic shuttles will be used. Full details of the tournament are being sent to all units under separate cover, but anyone wishing to play, who cannot get details, should contact **Captain R. S. Clayton,** Defence Automatic Data Processing Centre, School of Signals, Blandford, or ring Blandford Military 2581, extension 334.

At this tournament it is proposed to pick the team to play in the first match to be held on 3rd October. Players chosen will stay in Blandford until Friday, 2nd October, travel to the match, and then return to their units on 4th October.

The Corps Games Committee has recently agreed that badminton is an 'approved' sport and that Corps Colours might be awarded. The matches of the Army Badminton League are approved fixtures.

In recent years the Corps has produced the Army Singles Champion and pairs who have reached the last four in Army Doubles Championships. A great deal of support will be needed to produce similar results in the Badminton League.

Any players interested should contact **Captain Clayton,** who will forward entry forms to them and details of the tournament.

Lawn Tennis

CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1970

Captain M. A. Cornforth, Secretary Royal Signals Lawn Tennis, writes:

The above championships were played at Blandford on Thursday/Friday/Saturday, 9th/10th/11th July. It was a very full programme as only three courts were used, and also because a mixed doubles event was played for the first time for a few years. The weather held, however, and the tournament was completed in the scheduled time. There were some interesting matches played in the opening rounds, although no real upsets occurred. The finals produced some really fine play, with three of the finals going to three sets. **Major Gordon Oehlers** was undoubtedly the player of the tournament, winning three of the events—his sideboard must be groaning as much as his knees did at the end of the finals day.

The results of the various events are as follows:

Singles Plate Competition
W.O.II D. Walker beat Sergeant Mundy, 6—3, 6—1.

Doubles Plate Competition
Lieutenant-Colonel E. N. L. Brown and Lieutenant B. Baynes beat Corporal Drika and Corporal Boundy, 6—1, 3—6, 6—1.

Open Doubles Championship
Major L. S. Bamber and Lieutenant I. J. Oddie beat Lieutenant-Colonel Lowe and Major G. R. Oehlers, 4—6, 7—5, 6—4.

Singles Championship
Major G. R. Oehlers beat Lance-Corporal R. A. S. Dunster, 7—5, 2—6, 6—4.

Mixed Doubles Championship
Major and Mrs. G. R. Oehlers beat Captain and Mrs. S. G. M. Gordon, 8—6, 6—3.

Inter-Unit Doubles Championship
Won by School of Signals. Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. Lowe and Major G. R. Oehlers beat Major L. S. Bamber and Captain M. A. Cornforth, 6—0, 6—1.

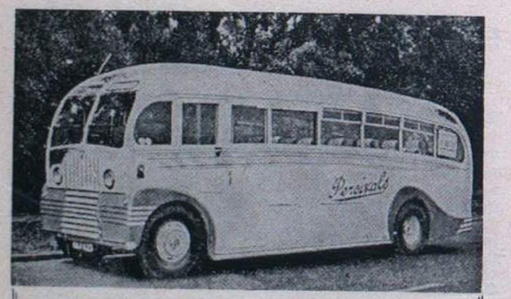
They nearly did it! Runners-up in Final Army Minor Units Team Athletics

7th ARMOURED BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON'S SUCCESSFUL ATHLETIC TEAM

The Squadron continues to do well on the sports field. Having won the 7 Armd. Brigade, 1 Division, BAOR and Morrison Cup Minor Units Athletics Competitions, the team, at unit expense, travelled to England to compete in the Army Championships at Aldershot on the 29th July. There the team came second to the Mercian Depot who beat them by one point. Once again Sergeant Escott takes much credit for a successful athletic season throughout which he has been ably supported by team members from every part of the H.Q. and Signal Squadron

Left to right: Back row—Signalman Mackenzie, Trooper McKenzie, Captain Hodges (Adjutant), Major Pollard, Lance-Corporal Corcoran

Front row—Signalman Appelton, Corporal Kelly, Sergeant Escott, Signalman Watson, Driver Mitchell. On ground, Lance-Corporal Cox, Corporal Oxley



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Obituary

MAJOR H. L. F. FEGAN, M.M.

The death, at the age of 77, on 25th July, of 'Tim' Fegan, will create a feeling of loss in both Royal Signals and the Indian Signal Corps.

Tim joined as a boy telegraphist, aged 15, in 1907. He was trained under K Company arrangements in the G.P.O. and continued his education up to the age of 18 in Exeter, where he spent the first three years of his service in K Company.

He was promoted Sergeant at the age of 21, and in 1914 proceeded to South West Africa on active service against the Germans. Later he served in France, where he won the M.M. and became a C.Q.M.S. He was selected for a commission in 1918, while on the Italian front, and was actually on his way to an officer cadet unit when the war ended.

He then went to Egypt and Palestine as C.S.M. of the Wireless Company, transferring to Royal Signals in 1920. He was R.Q.M.S. of 1st Divisional Signals in Aldershot from 1926-1929, when he took up the post of R.S.M. of the Depot Battalion, the most highly-prized W.O.I appointment in the Corps.

Tim was commissioned as an Indian Signal Corps Q.M. in 1933 and served continuously in Kohat District Signals until the outbreak of war. After a year at G.H.Q., Delhi, he joined the staff of the S.O.-in-C. India, as G.S.O.II, Secretary of the Defence Services Communication Liaison Board from 1941-1947, when he retired.

Tim was an upright, straightforward man, who exerted great influence on the soldiers under his care and who helped many young officers over hurdles. Our deep sympathy is extended to his widow.

BRIGADIER CYRIL KNOWLES, C.B.E.

Cyril Knowles was originally commissioned at the age of 19 in the Rifle Brigade in 1918. He was wounded in France five days before the Armistice. He served in the Arab Rebellion and in India. He attended a 'Q' Course in 1923, was seconded to the Corps the following year, and was transferred in 1927. He was a natural horseman and attended the equitation course at Weedon. Thereafter, many officers and signalmen passed through his hands in the Mounted Wing.

In 1928 he moved to the Middle East, where he remained until 1943, returning only once to England to be Adjutant of 2nd Divisional Signals. He spent a year in the Palestine operations.

Early in 1940 he was given a command. His first two units were 8th Division and 7th Armoured (the Desert Rats). He later commanded the Sudan Defence Force Signals and 4 L. of C. Signals. His last two appointments in the Middle East were as C.S.O. 13 Corps and C.S.O. 10 Corps.

He accompanied the British Liberation Army to North West Europe as C.S.O. 8 Corps. He was C.S.O. 2nd Army, 1944-45. After V.E.-Day Cyril Knowles was D.D. Signals (Telecommunications) in the War Office—a job he disliked—Whitehall soldiering was not for him. In 1946 he returned to the Middle East as C.S.O. Palestine. He was C.S.O. Scotland from 1946-49. To his surprise, he was then appointed to be Commander, Vienna Garrison, for three years, a duty which included being a member of the British Allied Commission.

He was Mentioned in Despatches in Iraq and was awarded the C.B.E. in 1945 and the Legion of Merit (U.S).

In pre-war days, his enthusiasm as a horseman and a rugger player was most marked and brought credit to Royal Signals, but it was as Chief Signal Officer of 13, 10 and 8 Corps he will be remembered. Almost daily, in operations, he visited Signal units in the formations under command. His calm and friendly manner and his confident help and advice were a blessing to junior signal officers. Those who served with him will never forget him as a comrade.

In 1925 he married Pamela Mary, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Morris, of Carleon. He died after several years of crippling arthritis, at Monmouth, on 2nd August, 1970. On behalf of his many friends in the Corps who knew, admired, and loved him, we offer to his widow and family our sincere sympathy.

BRIGADIER J. C. HARDY, C.B.E.

John Chambers Hardy, invariably known as Jack, was the son of H. E. Hardy, of Killyman, Dungannon. Born in 1905, he was educated at Campbell College and the 'Shop.' On joining 13 'Q' Course, in 1926, he was immediately notable for his happy attitude to life and his ability as a rugger player. In his time, he represented the Corps, the Harlequins, the Army, Yorkshire and Ulster. Had he not been posted abroad, he would probably have played for Ireland. He was also an outstanding sprinter, at 100 and 220 yards, for the Corps and the Army.

He served on the North West Frontier of India in the 1930-31 operations and was one of the few officers of the Corps to be selected for an equitation course at Saugor. He subsequently made a great name for himself as a horseman in Peshawar and whipped in for the P.V.H. in 1932/34. Later, at the outbreak of war he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and given Command of 13 Corps Signals after some service with the Sudan Defence Force. Subsequently he became C.O. of 9th Army Signals, and in 1944 he was promoted Colonel and appointed C.S.O., Air Formation Signals. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice.

In 1949 he became DD Signals at the Air Ministry. This was followed by three happy and successful years on the British Joint Staff in Washington. Jack took up his last appointment in 1955 as C.S.O., Scottish Command. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1958.

Jack Hardy will be remembered by his friends as a fine and modest sportsman, who supported the Corps honourably, both on and off duty. It was these qualities which led to his appointment as one of the Royal Signals instructors at the R.M.A., Woolwich in 1936.

In his retirement he worked with the firm of William Govan Ltd., of Glasgow, in which he was a director. He moved his home to Kirkintilloch, Dunbartonshire. He died on 26th July, after a long illness.

In 1944 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Lomas-Walker and they have three daughters and a granddaughter. Jack's many friends will miss his cheerful personality and offer the deepest sympathy to the family.

R.S.M. J. LEONARD, M.B.E.

Colonel T. H. C. Grigg writes:

I am sure that many members of the Corps both serving and retired will remember **R.S.M. Leonard** and will be very sorry to hear of his death on 1st June at the early age of 60.

R.S.M. Leonard joined the Corps in 1928 and became an Operator Signals. He went to India early in his career, remaining there until 1935 when he transferred to the Reserve. In 1939 he returned to the Colours and served with the British Expeditionary Force as a Corporal from October of that year until he was evacuated from Dunkirk in June, 1940. He had a very active war, mostly in field formations, and finished in N.W. Europe with the rank of Warrant Officer. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1940 and awarded an M.B.E. in 1945.

Subsequently he served in the Middle East with Sixth Airborne Division and earned a high reputation for himself as R.S.M. After a spell in B.A.O.R. he became R.S.M. to the Officers' Training Wing at the School of Signals and his final appointment was as R.S.M. of 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, again in the Middle East. He retired in 1955 after nearly 27 years in the Corps. He has been described by one of his former commanding officers as "one of the best R.S.M.s the Corps has ever had."

On retirement he was employed by the Nuclear Power Group near Knutsford. But it was typical of his outstanding qualities as a leader and his unselfishness that he devoted much of his spare time to Church and youth activities, and became a much-respected member of the management committee of a large Approved School. He was also a Vice-President of the local cricket club and umpired hockey matches regularly until five years ago.

A keen gardener, he was very fond of his home and garden.

He died on 1st June and was buried at Mobberley. The Corps was represented at the funeral by **R.S.M. Hopewell.** His family in their very sad loss are, I know, consoled by the very high esteem in which **Mr. Leonard** was held, both during his service in the army and subsequently in civilian life.

COLONEL B. G. ROWLEY

Brian Gabriel Rowley, often known as 'Gussie,' joined up in the Royal Norfolk Regiment in August, 1914, aged 17. He was commissioned into the Dorset Regiment after two months' service and served with them in France until 1917, when he joined the 1/21 Punjabis. He saw active service in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine, and later on, the Black Sea until 1921.

He joined the Indian Signal Corps, on probation, in 1922, serving as S.O. to C.S.O., Northern Command, and later in D Divisional Signals. After attending a 'Q' Course, he transferred to Royal Signals in 1926. He then spent three years in Waziristan.

In 1930, he began the only 18 months he ever spent in Regimental service in the United Kingdom—at Catterick. From 1932 to 1935 he served in Jabalpur and Kohat. He was appointed to Command the Army Signal School at Poona in 1935. After a short period as C.S.O., Southern Command, India, he returned to U.K. in 1938 as C.S.O. Air Fighter Command, actually being employed as C.S.O. 1 A.A. Corps.

In 1942 he became C.S.O., Canal Area, and then joined PAIFORCE as C.S.O. III Corps. His last appointment before retiring in 1947 was C.S.O., Palestine.

He lived near Farnham and remained in close touch with a large number of retired Corps folk in the Aldershot area. He had recently been on holiday to South Africa, and we were very pleased to see him at Blandford during the 1970 Reunion Weekend.

Brian died suddenly on 16th July, and we offer our deepest sympathy to Erica, his widow.

MAJOR-GENERAL A. C. FULLER, C.B.E.

Major-General Algernon Clement Fuller died at his home in Jersey on 6th August at the age of 85. 'Algy' Fuller entered the Royal Engineers in 1904 from the 'Shop,' where he won the Armstrong Medal. By 1906, when he was in 6th Field Company, he was experimenting in wireless—at that time a very new field. Thence he went to Bermuda as O.C. Signals. He erected wireless stations and built a radio-controlled boat.

On returning to Aldershot in 1910, he made considerable advances in the electrical recording of speech, and invented an automatic alarm signal for making a special call in the absence of a radio operator. While Adjutant of Western Telegraph Companies R.E.(TF) at Liverpool from 1912 to 1914, he invented the dynophone, an instrument to amplify wireless signals before thermionic valves were introduced. He published 'Hints on Wireless for Amateurs' in 1911.

Such a capable scientist and mathematician was not permitted to accompany the B.E.F. in 1914. Instead, he became Adjutant of the newly-forming Signal Depot at Haynes Park. He was able to pay an extended visit to 1st Army Signals in France in 1915, where he was able to gain first-hand knowledge of the problems facing signal officers in the field. He returned to England to be Staff Officer to Brigadier General Boys at the S.S.T.C. at Ridgemont, Bedford. While in France he had seen that, due to induction, telegraphy had become a danger to fighting men in trench warfare. This brought about the invention by which he will always be remembered—the Fullerphone. The morse signal from this instrument could not be picked up by induction. The Fullerphone was the only Great War instrument which remained in use up to the end of World War II. Fuller was a practical man, and his inventions were 'soldier proof.'

In 1916 he became experimental officer at the Signals Experimental Establishment. From here he was required frequently to visit front line units. He was Mentioned in Despatches four times. He was awarded the Order of the Crown of Italy and was created a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur. He received a brevet majority. However, he had not been on the strength of a unit overseas and received neither the 1915 Star or the Victory Medal, on which the emblem denoting a mention was worn.

He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1922, in which year he transferred to Royal Signals. He spent the next eleven years as a member of the R.E. and Signals Board, and then four years as Chief Inspector of R.E. and Signals Stores. He received the brevets of both Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel.

In 1938 he was promoted Brigadier on appointment as Deputy Director of Mechanisation (Engineers and Signals) at the War Office. In 1940 at the Ministry of Supply he was promoted to Major-General as a director. When he retired in 1941, he had become Deputy Director-General of the Ministry. He was awarded the C.B.E.

From 1941-45, General Fuller was Deputy Regional Commissioner for Civil Defence, Eastern Region.

As a memorial to H.R.H. The Princess Royal, the first and greatly-loved Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Signals, the Royal Signals Institution struck a medal of honour, to be known as the Princess Mary Medal. One of the first two recipients of this rare award, for conspicuous contributions to the art of signalling was General Fuller. The presentation was made by The Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, on behalf of the Master of Signals, General Fuller being not well enough to travel at that time.

He was a lively member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and had addressed this august body on several occasions.

He married in 1908, Ione Murdoch, from a naval family. Mrs. Fuller died in 1965. They had one daughter, to whom the Corps, which held her father in such high esteem, would wish to offer their deepest sympathy.

C.Q.M.S. W. STEVENSON

A.V.I. writes:

It is with great regret that we have to report the passing of **C.Q.M.S. 'Bill' Stevenson. 'Bill,'** as we knew him in Aldershot, was very faithful to the Corps and the Association. While with us at Aldershot he was a very regular attender of the monthly meetings and always in attendance at the Catterick Reunions. It was only a couple of years ago, after his 80th birthday, he coached all the way from Southampton to be there at Catterick.

His service commenced in 1906 with the Loyal North Lancs and in September, 1912, transferred to the R.E. Signals, continuing through with Royal Signals until October, 1927. During this period he saw service in France, Mediterranean E.F., The British Adriatic Mission, France again and Constantinople. His decorations included The Serbian Gold Medal and he was Mentioned in Despatches in 1917.

Truly a great character. He moved from the Aldershot area in 1961 and settled at Winsor, near Southampton, until his death on 25th June. He was buried with Military Honours at Copythorne Church, near Cadnam, Hants., on 1st July. The Corps was represented by **Captain S. Brice,** Royal Signals, of 223 Signal Squadron, Winchester, and **Staff Sergeant D. Collins,** Royal Signals, of the Army Information Office at Southampton. The Aldershot Branch of the Association was represented by the Vice-President, **Mr. L. V. Goodman,** the Chairman, **Mr. A. H. Green,** and the Honorary Secretary, **Mr. A. V. Ient.**

After the funeral, his decorations, awards and citations were handed over for safe keeping in the Museum at Blandford.

'Bill' was a life member of the Association and also closely connected with the British Legion.

GIFTS OF CLOTHING

Since the beginning of June, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Staff Sergeant and Mrs. N. J. Crowder, Mr. and Mrs. N. Stockdale, Captain R. Iliffe, Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Carroll, Sergeant D. Bower, Major (Q.M.) W. G. Finch, Mrs. R. O'Brien, A. E. Stead, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Ommanney, Mrs. F. St.C. Robinson, W.O.II R. Judge, Major T. F. Jenkinson, Mrs. G. H. Jeannette, Major I. E. Simpson, W.O.II (Y. of S.) M. Harrison, Major K. N. Smartt, Mrs. D. Lycett-Gregson.

The ladies of Hildesheim Garrison, Mrs. J. S. Hewson, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, A. Walsh, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel L. F. Ball, Mrs. C. Rogers, Mrs. C. E. Page, J. F. Benson, Esq., Miss Russell, Mrs. V. A. Heath, Major C. J. Bayfield, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, Brigadier and Mrs. J. R. Cubberley, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. Goodeve-Docker, Brigadier and Mrs. C. E. Tonry, Captain (T.O.T.) J. Potts, Mr. and Mrs. R. Leverton, W.O.I and Mrs. R. J. Hoe, Mrs. E. M. Fox, W. E. Osborne, Esq., Major and Mrs. R. G. Mitchell.

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Association News

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Hon. Secretary, **Mrs. Jean Harris,** 133, Russell Bank Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, writes: "Secretaries can be wrong!"

Birmingham Branch members were asked to suggest a way in which we could celebrate Royal Signals Golden Jubilee Year. Majority vote decided on a coach outing to the Royal Tournament. Remembering disastrous results of such functions several years previous, the Secretary was very reluctant to organise a function of this sort, and tried to dissuade members by putting forward every possible objection and pitfall—it would cost too much; members would back out at the last minute; we would lose money; it would be impossible to get tickets for the Tournament; we would be unable to book a coach on a Saturday at the height of the Midlands holiday period; if we did manage to get a coach it would be an aged 'boneshaker' that would certainly break down, etc., etc.

Members quietly insisted that this was the function they wanted, so, mindful of her duties as the elected Secretary, an outing was duly organised.

Luckily, Birmingham members have more faith in human nature than their Secretary, for the outing proved an unqualified success. There was no hitch; members did exactly as their 'bossy' Secretary decreed; the weather was perfect; the coach was superb, with an excellent driver; timing, meal arrangements—you name it—all went like clockwork. At the Tournament, the 'White Helmets' seemed to put on a display especially for us, and we clapped madly when the announcer advised that the resident band was our very own Corps Band.

As if to rub salt into the wound, during our lunch break, when the day's outing really had only just started, the members made a superb presentation to their Secretary for organising the outing.

A very red-faced, penitent Secretary says thank-you to her members and if you want another coach outing organised, please don't hesitate to ask!

NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

Hon. Secretary—**Mr. D. Smith,** 9, Castilian Street, Northampton.

The winter programme is now being planned and already three activities have been arranged; at the monthly meeting on 24th September, the dog handler from Northampton and County Police Headquarters will be giving us a talk.

A buffet/dance has been arranged for 30th October and since this is the night after our usual meeting, nothing is being planned for Thursday, 29th October. For the November meeting **Sergeant Noe,** Royal Signals, who is a Recruiting Sergeant at the local Careers Centre, is trying to arrange for a speaker, possibly with film, from the Corps. Please remember that wives, girl friends, friends, etc., are welcome at all meetings and functions.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of **Bob Boyson,** to whose family sympathy has been extended. The President, **Colonel S. Brock,** and several members of the Branch attended the funeral.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Mr. F. Powell, Chairman writes:

It is with deep regret I have to inform you of the untimely death of **Ernest Ryalls,** a very respected member of our branch. He died on 31st July, and this news was followed by the sad loss of the wife of **Tom Brown,** another of our members, on 1st August.

Ernest was a very keen member of the Association, and when the Sheffield Branch was first formed, shortly after the war, he was a very hard worker and he also held the position of Secretary.

Both will be sadly missed, but we hope the companionship of the Association will be of comfort to the partners left behind.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth Annual General Meeting, held at Catterick Camp, on Sunday, 28th June, 1970.

Present

Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., President; **Brigadier W. G. Tucker, C.B.E.,** Chairman; **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** Vice-Chairman; **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary, and some 140 members of the Association.

Brigadier Tucker opened the meeting by welcoming all who had come to Catterick for the special Jubilee Reunion. All told, some 36 branches were represented, some 800 Old Comrades were being accommodated overnight, and over 1,300 were being catered for by the Training Brigade in respect of meals on Sunday.

He was particularly glad to welcome the President, **Major-General Sir William Scott**—albeit it was his last appearance in this appointment—as well as **Major-General Price,** Representative Colonel Commandant. He was also glad that **Major-General Bradley,** Master of Signals designate, and **Major-General Moberly** were present, and he welcomed **Major-General Whistler,** who had travelled from Scotland for the weekend. Finally, he had received apologies from **Major-General Pentreath,** S.O.-in-C., and **Major-General Cole,** Vice-Chairman, who much regretted that other duties prevented their attendance.

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting were put to the meeting for formal approval, and having been duly proposed and seconded and approved, they were signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on Association affairs, main points being:

Branches and Membership. There were currently 46 branches in the U.K., Swansea and Preston having had to close since the last A.G.M.

Since the last A.G.M., 125 Life and 120 Annual Members had joined.

Welfare.—Since the last A.G.M., £10,985 had been spent on 597 welfare cases, and 578 welfare parcels—mostly clothing—had been sent out.

'The Wire.' 'The Wire' was progressing well and circulation was increasing slightly, despite some reduction in the strength of the Corps. The coloured front cover was a success. The Central Committee had agreed to subsidise 'The Wire' up to £1,000 in order to ensure a coloured front cover was produced every month, as well as to cover the cost of certain general interest articles.

Staff. Mr. Evenden (Accountant) had left after 24 years' loyal service. A presentation and a weekly grant to augment his pension had been made. His place had been taken by **Mr. Shelbourne** (Assistant Accountant) and **Mr. Biddlecombe** had taken over **Mr. Shelbourne's** old duties.

Salisbury/Blandford Reunion. This had been an outstanding success, and a great day in Corps history. Salisbury Cathedral had been filled to capacity for the Service of Rededication, and there had been an inspiring march past after the service, in which the Association had played a big part.

The School of Signals laid on a first-class 'Open Day' at Blandford, and had done wonders in catering very successfully for over 1,000 visitors.

Accounts for 1969. Accumulated funds now stand at £131,410, compared with £122,096 in 1968. General Fund surplus of income over expenditure was £2,170. Benevolent Fund surplus of income over expenditure was £3,370. In view of the healthy state of funds, the Central Committee had agreed to make a special Jubilee Year grant to the Army Benevolent Fund of £9,000. The implications of the increased income from the Day's Pay Scheme because of the new pay rates were under consideration and discussions were going on with the Army Benevolent Fund on this subject.

The Accounts were then put to the meeting and, there being no questions, were duly proposed and seconded and passed by a show of hands.

Central Committee

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., C.B.E., Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.;** Branch Representative, **Mr. J. J. Goggin** (Shrewsbury Branch) vice **Mr. W. J. Rigden** (Catterick Branch) retiring in rotation.

In this connection, the Chairman referred to the imminent change in the appointment of Master of Signals, and as **Major-General Bradley** was taking over on 1st August, he had approached him on the question of becoming President of the Association in place of **Major-General Sir William Scott. General Bradley** had replied that he was very happy indeed to take on this appointment. The Chairman said he knew that he was speaking on behalf of all members of the Association when he said how pleased all would be that **General Bradley** would be their new President.

Any other business

The Chairman said that he would like to keep this very short and to the point, as there was an important item at the end which he wished to deal with. He would like at this juncture to thank **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe,** his staff, and all members of the Training Brigade for all the hard work and excellent arrangements which had made the weekend such a resounding success. This was supported with acclamation by all present.

Mr. Young (Manchester Branch) handed a cheque from his branch to **Major-General Bradley** in respect of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal Fund.

Major Tucker (Dorset Branch) handed over a cash collection (£7 9s. 0d.) that had been taken that morning in the Garrison W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess on behalf of the Association Benevolent Fund.

Major Tucker said that it was a matter of pride that in this Jubilee Year, **Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson** (Catterick and District Branch) had been reappointed Mayor of Richmond. This was greeted with acclamation.

Presentation to the Master of Signals

The Chairman then made a presentation to the Master of Signals to mark his retirement from the appointment of President of the Association and Master of Signals. This had been kept a closely-guarded secret and came as a complete surprise to **General Scott.** The Chairman said that he would be very brief and that what was published in the souvenir programme for the reunion aptly summed up his thoughts—**"Major-General Sir William Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.,** our first Master of Signals, who hands over on 1st August this year after nine years in the appointment, has served with R.E. Signals and Royal Signals since 1917. His career has spanned the whole history of our Corps." He then invited the President, in the name of the Association, to accept two black and white framed prints after Julius Matani and Bryan de Grinean. One depicted a World War I scene with a despatch rider from the front line handing a message to a General at his H.Q. The other was a 1937 scene and showed various signalling activities connected with the Signal Office of the 56th (London) Division on exercise. (These pictures can be seen on pages 40 and 65 of 'Through to 1970').

The Master of Signals, in a short reply, thanked the Association for their kind gift, which he very much appreciated.

The meeting then closed.

(Please see accounts overleaf)

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION & BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1969

1968					1968			
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ACCUMULATED FUND (INCLUDING MINOR TRUSTS)					CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		3,869
115,174		Balance at 31st December, 1969 ..		122,096	13,056		SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS ..		3,694
	—	*Add:* Transfer of assets of 50th (N) Divisional Signals Benevolent Fund ..	553		2,418		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE		1,720
		Excess of income over expenditure for			1,647		STOCKS IN HAND		953
	5,915	the year	5,540		685		LOANS TO ASSOCIATION BRANCHES ..		266
		Excess of income of minor trust over			—		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
	26	expenditure for the year	44			107,657	Quoted (market value £141,422-1968, £159,425)	122,528	
	981	Profit on sale of investments	3,177			4	Unquoted	4	
6,922				9,314		107,661			122,532
122,096				131,410		355	OFFICE FURNITURE—AT COST LESS DEPRECIATION		412
3,726		SUNDRY CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES		2,036					
		NOTE: There is a contingent liability to refund life membership subscriptions to certain serving soldiers of the Corps on retirement.					W. G. TUCKER, *Chairman* P. M. P. HOBSON, *Secretary*		
£125,822				£133,446	£125,822				£133,446

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, 1969 and of the surplus 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 Trustee Limited.

3, Frederick's Place,
Old Jewry, London, E.C.2.
June, 1970.

(Signed) PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1969

GENERAL

1968					1968				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			322		SUBSCRIPTIONS		248
		Salaries, National Insurance, Super-			43		RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES		56
	836	annuation contributions	852		63		PROFIT ON PUBLICATIONS		—
	1,320	Other administrative expenses	1,383				SUNDRY INCOME		
2,156				2,235			Income from sales of Corps clothing, badges, records of Corps music and		
		AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF					diaries		322
39		Furniture and fittings		46	493		INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS—GROSS ..		5,745
833		COST OF ASSOCIATION REUNIONS ..		1,096	5,579				
—		SUBSIDY TO PUBLICATIONS		824					
3,472		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		2,170					
£6,500				£6,371	£6,500				£6,371

BENEVOLENT

1968					1968				
£	£		£	£	£	£		£	£
		ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES					DONATIONS		
		Salaries, National Insurance, Super-			523		Individuals and local branches ..	263	
	2,574	annuation contributions	2,701		1,224		Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	1,298	
	214	Postage of welfare parcels	258		1,747				1,561
2,788				2,959			CORPS FUNDS—¾ DAYS PAY		
11,252		BENEVOLENT GRANTS		10,145	2,750		Officers	2,940	
		DONATIONS			16,233		Soldiers	16,917	
	5,000	Army Benevolent Fund	6,000		18,983				19,857
	210	Star and Garter Homes	400				GRANTS REFUNDED		
	230	Shaftesbury Homes	150		1,122		Benevolent	1,269	
	200	Army Apprentices College	—		336		War Memorial Fund	465	
	65	Others	128		1,458				1,734
5,705				6,678					
2,443		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ..		3,370					
£22,188				£23,152	£22,188				£23,152

SUMMARY

1968				1968			
£			£	£			£
		OVERALL EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE TAKEN TO ACCUMULATED		3,472		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	
5,915		FUND	5,540	2,443		ON GENERAL ACCOUNT	2,170
						ON BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT	3,370
£5,915			£5,540	£5,915			£5,540

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RADIO OPERATORS

There will be a number of vacancies in the Composite Signals Organisation for experienced Radio Operators in 1970 and in subsequent years.

Specialist training courses lasting approximately nine months, according to the trainee's progress, are held at intervals. Applications are now invited for the course starting in September, 1970.

During training, a salary will be paid on the following scale:

Age 21	£848	per annum
22	900	„ „
23	943	„ „
24	981	„ „
25 and over	1023	„ „

Free accommodation will be provided at the Training School.

After successful completion of the course, Operators will be paid on the Grade 1 scale:

Age 21	£1023	„ „
22	1087	„ „
23	1150	„ „
24	1214	„ „
25 (highest age point)	1288	„ „

then by six annual increases to a maximum of £1749 per annum.

Excellent conditions and good prospects of promotion. Opportunities for service abroad.

Applicants must normally be under 35 years of age at start of training course and must have at least two years' operating experience. Preference given to those who have G.C.E. or P.M.G. qualifications.

Interviews will be arranged throughout 1970.

Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road,
CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21492 Ext. 2270.

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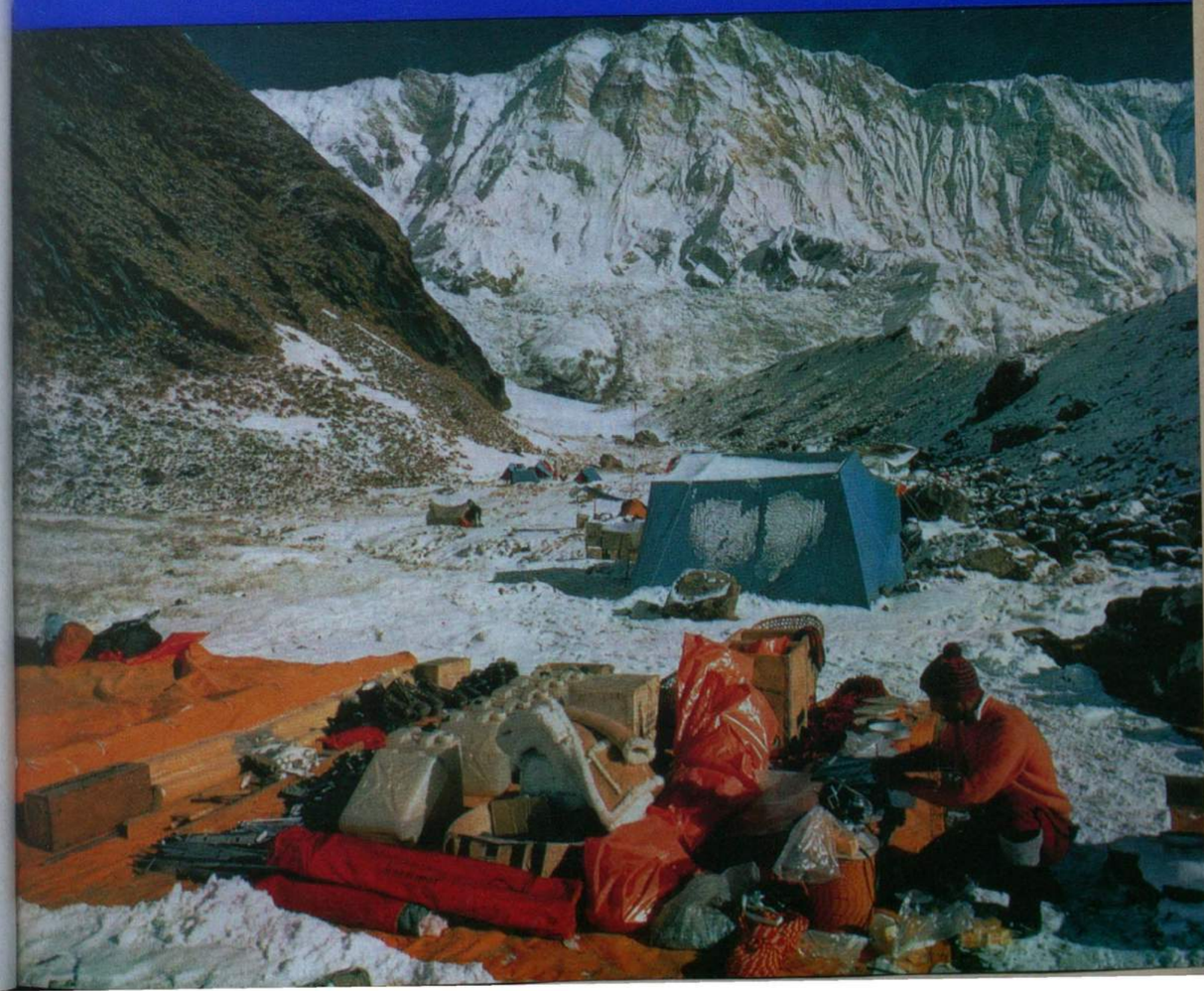
October-November 1970

THE **wire**

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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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. 01-730-4129 and 01-730-3477. Ext. 143.*

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☆

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER • 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 10**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

We are happy to publish this month this fine photograph taken at the Base Camp of the 1970 **Chris Bonington** Annapurna Expedition some 16,000 feet up in the Himalayas.

In the photograph is **Captain Kelvin Kent** of the Corps who undertook the busy and important role of communicator and quartermaster for the expedition, and through his personal efforts did much to help the expedition to reach the summit of this difficult and dangerous peak. He can be seen in the photograph checking some of the many stores that came under his control.

Long Haired Technicians

Occasionally one hears references to the Corps as a "lot of long haired technicians" the inference being "very good technically but, of course, one must make certain allowances for them in the more soldierly and tougher aspects of Army life."

This viewpoint — rapidly diminishing — is of course nonsense and the Corps has, and always will, more than hold its own in all types of Army achievement and endeavour — not least in time of war as its proud record shows.

Consider the following:

The 21st Signal Regiment were second in the Army Cross-Country Championships and later won the Army Team Athletics.

The Corps Shooting Team had a remarkable year at Bisley winning the Methuen and many other much-sought-after cups and trophies, beating the cream of all other arms and services in the process.

Corps canoeists dominated the B.A.O.R. Canoe Championships in all events and made an outstanding name for themselves in Dublin where they were competing at international level with teams representing foreign countries. They gained 1st place in one class, 2nd in another and 3rd in a third, so establishing a record unsurpassed by any of the national teams.

At the Nijmegen marches no less than five teams from different Corps units took part, all completing the march and gaining medals. The team from our Apprentices' College was selected to represent Great Britain by parading the Union Jack at the opening ceremony—a high honour.

The 7th Signal Regiment won the *Daily Telegraph* Trophy (as overall winners) and just missed winning the Rothman Trophy for parachuting techniques in Exercise *'Parashot'* held in B.A.O.R. This competition involves a team of four dropping by parachute into a D.Z. where they make contact with an agent and collect 160lb. of equipment. They then have to move tactically across country for 12 miles, including carrying out a demolition, making a difficult river crossing and dealing with an ambush. Finally, they have to fire a range practice on Sterling machine guns and move into location for a tactical withdrawal by helicopter.

These are but a few of the many events of 1970 at which the Corps has excelled and, no doubt, many of our readers will already be reaching for their pens to point out the many other successes that have been chalked up by their respective units. We are indeed well aware that both in the U.K. and in overseas stations Corps teams have in 1970 either won or been well to the fore in a wide variety of sports and activities.

Apart from this a number of individuals, by their personal efforts, have put the Corps' name firmly on the map. In this issue alone we can read of **Captain Kelvin Kent** and his adventures with the Annapurna Mountaineering Expedition, of **Signalman Rick Lee** who has been selected to accompany the Antarctica Survey Team, and of **Corporal Mick Gue's** possible selection for Olympic honours in the athletics world.

Yes, 1970 has been quite a year. While we can take justifiable pride in our technical expertise let no one say that we are not at the same time soldiers in every sense of the word—and very proud of it.

From our "In" Tray

Retirement after 20 years with the Corps . . .

R.S.M. W. Duke

A correspondent writes:

R.S.M. W. Duke leaves the Army in October after 20 years in the Corps. He began his military career with the Commandos and left the Army in 1948, rejoining as a lineman in 1950. He served in B.A.O.R. and Kenya, prior to joining the Parachute Brigade Signal Squadron in 1958. Ever since then the R.S.M. has worn a red beret with a Corps badge. Such was his 'grip' in the Parachute Brigade that he was promoted in 1967 to R.S.M. at the Army Air Transport Training and Development Centre—a rare distinction won in competition with Warrant Officers of other arms.

During his 12 years with parachute forces, R.S.M. Duke has completed over 200 descents, a hundred or more of which have been on trials of new parachute equipments or techniques. At A.A.T.D.C., the R.S.M. has helped to lead and train a skilful multi-Service, multi-Regiment body of men, and has organised many courses of senior officers visiting the unit.

As all at A.A.T.D.C. can testify, long service has not lessened R.S.M. Duke's physical vigour or his ability to express himself very clearly indeed. His many friends in the Corps, Airborne Forces, and at A.A.T.D.C., will wish him every success in civilian life. The photo below was taken at a farewell party to him.

R.S.M. Duke receiving an inscribed salver at a farewell party at AATDC. The presentation was made by the O.C. Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Wallis, R.C.T.

Many of R.S.M. Duke's friends will be pleased to hear that he has been awarded a Lieutenant (Q.M.) commission in the Abu Dhabi Defence Force.—Editor.

"CRAFTSMEN OF THE ARMY"

The Story of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

We have been asked by the Corps Secretary, R.E.M.E., to give publicity to the above publication, for the benefit of R.E.M.E. personnel serving with the Corps.

Due for publication in November this year, this book tells the history of the Corps from its roots in the old Army Ordnance Corps and Army Ordnance Department to the present day.

Although historically correct as to the facts it relates, it presents a readable and varied story rather than a purely Regimental history and for a reader who likes a story full of human interest, which displays the extent of the soldier-craftsman's ingenuity and resource and his officers' professional leadership and skill, it affords interest and pleasure in ample measure.

Publishers: Leo Cooper Ltd., 196, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL.

Price: 60s. (42s. for members of the Corps of R.E.M.E.).

Orders: Should be placed with R.E.M.E. Corps Secretariat, Moat House, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9LN, Berks.

(Cheques payable to R.E.M.E. Corps Account No. 2).

Royal Signals Gliding Club

Members should forward their claims for grants from the Royal Signals Games Fund for the period January-November, 1970. Applications are required by 1st December, 1970, and should be addressed to: **Major P. Goldney,** Royal Signals Tactics Wing, H.Q., Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants., and should include the following information for the period:

Total flying fees paid; total launches during 1970; total flying hours during 1970; cross-country kilometres flown; results of any competitions or F.A.I. badges attempted, and total gliding experience in launches and hours, together with qualifications held.

Vacancy for an Administrative Officer, T.A.V.R.

A vacancy for an Administrative Officer on consolidated rates of pay with 69 (North Irish Horse) Signal Squadron (V), Londonderry, will become available in March, 1971.

The appointment calls for an officer (or exceptionally a suitable qualified Warrant Officer Class I) with broad administrative experience; some knowledge of the T.A.V.R. or T.A. is desirable, but not essential. Terms of service are set out in Schedule XVI of Regulations for the T.A.V.R., 1967. The starting salary is £1,395.

Applicants should apply in writing, giving date of birth and brief details of experience and qualifications to: Commanding Officer, 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), 21, Jardine Street, Glasgow, N.W.

STOP PRESS

THE CORPS IN JORDAN!

Too late to include in this issue are accounts from the 14th and 30th Signal Regiments of detachments sent by them at short notice to provide communications for the British and International Red Cross teams operating in and around Amman. These interesting accounts of the Corps doing an efficient job in a humanitarian role are highlighted by an on the spot description of events in a letter from **Captain Tim Hallchurch,** Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Troops in Jordan. Make sure you read the November/December WIRE for a full description of the Corps once again doing an UNUSUAL JOB IN A FARAWAY PLACE!

THE WIRE — DECEMBER ISSUE

Will all Units please note that copy for the December issue must be in the Editor's hands by 10th November latest.

The Empire Field of Remembrance

The Field will be opened at 12 noon on Thursday, 5th November, with a short service conducted by Canon Edwards, the Association are invited to be present, and it 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 and a representative of Association Headquarters (Mr. Greenbrook), together with members of branches who can get along at the time, will be the official representatives of the Association at the opening. Any member of the Association 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 representatives at the opening ceremony.

24in. x 12in. Badge Cross, price 21s.; 24in. x 12in. Field Cross, price 15s.; 12in. x 6in. Poppy Cross, price 10s.; 12in. x 6in. Wreath Cross, price 5. Personal Remembrance Cross, price 6d. each.

Royal Signals Diary 1971

Owing to difficulties with the manufacturers, it is regretted that the usual type of Corps diary is unobtainable this year. Bare wallets are still available at 12/- including postage.

In place a completely new diary will be available **at 6/- per diary, in or out of the United Kingdom, including postage.**

This diary, based on the mini-planner style, is a modern approach to diaries which is becoming increasingly popular—its main assets being marked slimness allied to the capability of recording a whole month's activities on one double page.

It can be used, without undue bulging, in the same pocket as the old-type wallet with insert removed. The outer cover (6in. x 3¼in.) is in flexible dark blue vinyl with a gold Jimmy embossed on it. The diary itself is about ¼in. thick—it can be made even slimmer, if so desired, by removing the section for addresses and telephone numbers. It fits comfortably into an inner coat pocket or hip pocket but is a tight fit in the top pocket of a uniform jacket. It has two plastic side pockets which could hold a few slim items such as season tickets or identity cards.

The diary achieves its slimness by omitting most of the information—often of doubtful value—found in a conventional diary. The front page has spaces for various personal details and the back of the diary section has conversion tables for decimal currency, fahrenheit / centigrade, gallons / litres, kilogrammes / pounds and kilometres / miles as well as complete calendars for 1971 and 1972. There is also a large alphabetically indexed section, for names, addresses and telephone numbers. This can be removed, as mentioned above, if not required.

The diary is so laid out that on opening it a day of the week runs right across two pages and a whole month can be seen at a glance across the full double page. The actual space for writing in is a little smaller than that available in the present diary but should be quite sufficient for noting down appointments and events.

Specimens of these diaries have been sent out to certain major units for comments and, on the whole, the reaction is favourable—one unit has ordered 30 straight away and another has been selling this type of diary, privately, for three years.

A bulk order has now gone to the manufacturers and diaries should be available for dispatch, from this office, not later than the end of October.

If the demand is greater than the original estimate it may be possible to place a supplementary order with the manufacturers, so please order EARLY.

ORDER FORM

To: The General Secretary (Diary Order), Royal Signals Association, R.H.Q. Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London, S.W.3.

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Address .....
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Please earmark for despatch as soon as available ..... **Corps diaries at 6/- each, including postage and wallets at 12/- each.**

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Date ..... **Signed** .....

Movements

Officers

Lieutenant R. C. K. Baynes ...	...	To School of Army Aviation
Major T. R. Blackwood ...	...	,, 33rd Regiment (V)
A/Captain A. J. Briggs ...	...	,, 3rd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment
Captain A. F. Browne ...	...	,, 11th Regiment
Lieutenant M. Butler ...	...	,, 644 Troop
Major G. A. Cox	...	,, 55 Squadron (V) as O.C.
Captain (T.O.T.) R. F. A. Davies ...		,, 28th Regiment
Major W. E. A. Edmonds ...	...	,, 222 Squadron, as O.C.
Captain (Tfc.) R. M. Ewens ...	...	,, 14th Regiment
Captain A. F. Field ...	...	,, 223 Squadron
Captain S. C. L. Gadd ...	...	,, H.Q., B.A.O.R. Computer Centre
Lieutenant-Colonel N. G. Gallyer ...		,, CANDE Div. SHAPE
Captain R. W. Garlick	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Major D. W. Gent	...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major M. A. T. Hartnett ...	...	,, Manchester University O.T.C.
Captain (T.O.T.) D. P. Herring ...		,, H.Q., Land Forces, Hong Kong
Captain (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley, M.B.E.	...	,, 10th Regiment
Lieutenant A. M. Lovatt ...	...	,, 8th Regiment
Captain M. Marples	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Captain F. R. Maynard ...	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Lieutenant P. F. Meaning ...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Palmer ...		,, H.Q., CENTO, as Colonel
Major R. A. F. Reynolds ...	...	,, 255 Squadron, as O.C.
Captain M. C. Spence ...	...	,, R.M.C. of S.
Captain (T.O.T.) R. Staniford ...		,, 10th Regiment, 1st Com.
Captain (Q.M.) V. H. Stephens ...		,, 656 Aviation Sqn., B.F.P.O. 1
Lieutenant J. G. Turner ...	...	,, 21st Regiment, 1st Com.
Brigadier D. E. Warren, ...	...	,, H.Q., Southern Command, as C.S.O.
Captain A. L. Watson	...	,, 2nd Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt., as Major
Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway		,, Royal Signals Records
Captain M. O. Wilson	...	,, 63 Squadron (V)
Major M. S. Wilson-Brown ...	...	,, 22nd Regiment
Captain N. F. Wood	...	,, 255 Squadron

W.Os and Sergeants

W.O.II R. Adamson	...	To 9th Regiment
W.O.II M. G. E. Hall ...	...	,, 21st Regiment
W.O.II G. Widdowson	...	,, 9th Regiment
W.O.II (Y. of S.) T. Martin ...	...	,, Mons O.T.C.
Staff Sergeant A. D. Hewett ...		,, 6 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) P. Sharp ...		,, 10th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) R. A. Baker ...		,, 4th Division Signal Regiment
Staff Sergeant C. V. Forth		,, 14th Regiment
A/Staff Sergeant N. F. A. Lock ...		,, 55 Squadron (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Rotherham		,, Project Engineering Planning Staff
Staff Sergeant (F.o f S.) A. W. A. Charlton		,, 30th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. F. Potter ...		,, 39 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Sugden ...		,, 259 Squadron
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. G. Hunt ...		,, H.Q., B.A.O.R.
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) W. Sawyer ...		,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant H. C. Stickley	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Hanman	...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant C. D. Cameron ...	...	,, 8th Regiment
Sergeant M. W. Rippon	...	,, 31st Regiment (V)
Sergeant D. F. R. Laing	...	,, 255 Squadron
Sergeant T. P. M. Smith ...	...	,, 19th Regiment
Sergeant H. B. Seaton	...	,, 227 Squadron
Sergeant R. Simmons	...	,, School of Signals
Sergeant J. W. Cornforth ...	...	,, Army Outward Bound School
Sergeant M. J. L. Palmer ...	...	,, 7th Regiment
Sergeant T. S. Langley	...	,, 19 Inf. Brigade Signal Squadron
Sergeant C. A. J. Ridley ...	...	,, 28th Regiment
Sergeant N. E. Mortimer ...	...	,, 13th Regiment
A/Sergeant D. W. Green ...	...	,, 222 Squadron
A/Sergeant R. I. Bayliss	...	,, 19 Cadet Training Team
A/Sergeant M. R. Mandy ...	...	,, 2nd Division Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant K. G. Drummond ...		,, 24th Regiment
A/Sergeant A. C. Munroe ...	...	,, 10th Regiment
A/Sergeant M. C. Davies ...	...	,, 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. A. Phillips	...	,, 3rd Division Signal Regiment
A/Sergeant C. F. G. Batten ...	...	,, 30th Regiment
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Annapurna 1970

by

Captain Kelvin Kent

All will have heard of the tough Annapurna climb this year which involved the conquest of a 26,545 foot Himalayan peak. Not all will know that Captain Kent, of the Corps, was a member of the team, headed by Chris Bonington.

Whilst not a professional climber he played the very important role of going ahead, assembling all the varied equipment, setting up a communications network and acting as general L.O. and dogsbody. His duties also involved humping equipment up to Camp 4 at a height of 21,500 feet.

We are much indebted to Captain Kent for the interesting account he gives below of Annapurna 1970. It is good to know that the Corps was able to play a useful part in this tough and dangerous undertaking.

The Annapurna team pose at base camp before returning to the U.K. Captain Kelvin Kent left of back row. Sadly missing was Ian Clough killed the day before

The big picture

I SUPPOSE one could compare the climbing of Annapurna with the N.A.S.A. programme to put a man on the moon. We did not quite get that high ourselves but the effort required in terms of manpower, equipment and logistics to place just two men on the summit, 26,545 feet above sea level, was not much different (or so it appeared to us) from the mighty backing needed to put Apollo 11 into orbit. Here are a few statistics to show what I mean:

It took 400 porters to get our kit and equipment up to Base Camp.

The total footage climbed by the team during the course of the expedition was 1,171,500 feet or over 220 vertical miles. This represents on average that every climber climbed the mountain the equivalent of 3.9 times.

Over five tons of food and equipment was actually carried up the mountain from Base Camp on people's backs. This is the equivalent of 3,800 separate 30-pound loads.

The mail runners covered a total of 3,500 miles over the steep rocky paths between Base Camp and Pokhara (our nearest point of civilisation) in two months.

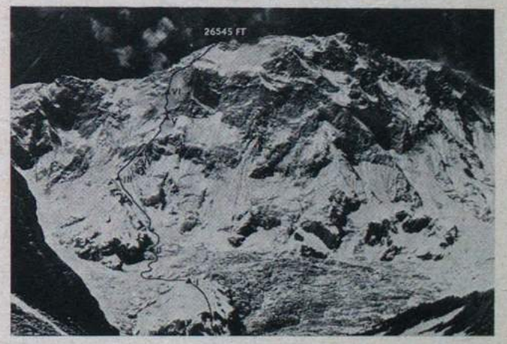
At the end of the expedition the fastest runner, 'Tibetan Joe,' was timed carrying the summit film over the 60 miles. He left at 5.30 a.m. and handed the package to the Pokhara agency at 7.40 a.m. the next day — 26 hours 10 minutes solo over ground which included snow, rock, ice, jungle, hill terracing and river valleys!

The carry between Camp 3 and Camp 4 (21,500 feet) made by the Sherpas was considered by them to be the most difficult achievement ever attained by Sherpas in Himalayan climbing. Veteran Sherpa **Pemba Tharke** described it as much harder than the climb to the top of the Everest South Col (which he had done three times) and to the top camp on Makalu at approximately 27,000 feet.

The longest period of climbing above 20,000 feet was done by **Mick Burke** who stayed on the face for 31 days without a break.

We used 17,000 feet of rope which was sufficient to stretch from Piccadilly Circus to Waterloo station and back again.

The ITV television team shot over 90,000 feet of film—three times longer than the height of the mountain itself.



THE GREAT SWEEP OF MOUNTAIN TO BE CONQUERED
General view of the South Face of Annapurna showing route up the mountain

Don Whillans and **Dougal Haston** survived at the top camp during storm conditions for six days with only a limited quantity of cereal and Coke tablets for food but were going so well at the end that they did not use oxygen at all in their summit push.

The backing for this venture, apart from the 400 original porters, included the 11-man climbing team, a four-man TV unit, six H.A. Sherpas, six mail runners, a base camp cook and three cookboys, a TV Sherpa, a radio operator at base camp, six local Gurkha porters, a link man, runner and radio operator at Pokhara, an agency in Katmandu and a supporting organisation throughout in England.

It cost £30,000 to mount the Expedition over and above the massive help we got from industry.

Responsibilities

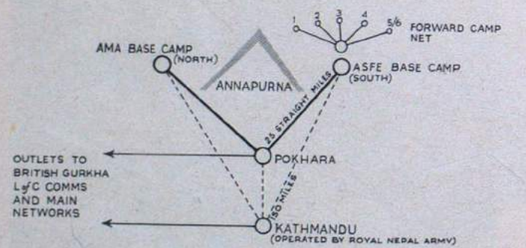
My own job was outlined to me months before, whilst in Hong Kong. It started in January this year, three months before the Expedition was due to arrive in Nepal. I was supposed to go to Kathmandu and sort out the arrangements for the importation of all of our equipment into Nepal by air, sea and overland to three different entry points, get the necessary import licences, open bank accounts, fix the customs, get the Government clearances, organise the Sherpas, cooks and mail runners, recruit the porters and generally act as an L.O. to the ever-changing programme. At the same time, the Army expedition to the North side of Annapurna was able to (and of course did!) make use of my being in situ to do the same for them. A holiday? Not quite. The local bureaucracy taxed my patience to the end but thanks to the help of the British Army Gurkha L. of C. in Nepal, in which the Corps is well represented, I survived. **Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Davies** and **Lieutenants Hamish Adams** and **Ashley Truluck,** at the Headquarters in Dharan, and **Major Peter Ridlington,** at the Recruiting Centre in West Nepal, saw to it that I got most of what I wanted and the net result was, to say the least, successful.

The Comms.

In amongst all the planning and paperwork we turned to communications and I was given a free hand to assess the requirement and produce the system. The factors involved were fairly straightforward and the deductions reached hardly required discussion. We needed forward communications up the mountain to the various camps with a Control Station at base camp which was up to seven miles distant from some points on the face. And we considered essential a rear-link facility for control of our mail system, casualty evacuation and important messages to the various agencies, Nepal Government and British Embassy. We also thought it desirable to be able to talk to the Army expedition just 15 miles away on the other side of the mountain.

For the short-range Inter Camp net we chose V.H.F. walkie-talkie Pye Bantams and for the rear link, selected Racal Squadcals (man packable H.F. sets which operate well on key and voice from batteries over short/medium ranges using a whip or dipole antenna).

A simplified net diagram appears below:



Amazingly it all worked very well indeed. Gurkha Signals had kindly made available to me a newly commissioned Q.G.O. (**Lieutenant Bishnuparsad Thapa**) and **Signalman Gambahadur Pun. Lieutenant Bishnuparsad** (an ex-R.Op.B.I.) remained at Pokhara which was the little hill town about 60 miles by track from the base camp which had an airfield and which we used for our main starting-off point. He was responsible for the mail systems and administration of mail runners for both expeditions, the outward flow of television film, charging of camera batteries, arrangements for local purchase and the Pokhara end of the H.F. link. He came on the net himself most days but employed a pensioned Gurkha signal operator for the routine calls whilst he was away at the airport or on other work. **Gambahadur** was at the base camp end of the link and virtually ran the communications and maintenance of all of our electrical appliances. In between this he acted as the foreman of our six locally enlisted porters and frequently did carries himself to Camp 1 and twice to Camp 2. He also built a volleyball court and arranged a knock-out competition which, at 14,000 feet, really was!

CAMP I AT 16,000 FEET
A peaceful appearance belied the dangers and difficulties that lay ahead

SCENE OF A TRAGEDY
Kent and Signalman Gambahadur doing a carry to Camp 2. Ian Clough was killed a few yards away from them to the left of the picture when an ice serac collapsed on top of him

CAMP IV AT 21,500 FEET
Kent did 4 carries up to this point

TOUGH GOING
Getting a load up one of the difficult stretches on the ice ridge. Jumars were used in both hands in conjunction with a sit sling and footrest sling

The conditions under which we worked varied considerably. The morning schedule was normally clear voice in hot sunshine but later in the day it could become foul with heavy snow, electrical storms and bitter wind and cold. The base camp set was struck by lightning on one occasion which did not do the A.T.U. any good and frequently the antenna would become live with static which could give anyone who touched the dangling lead a nasty jolt or produce a colourful fireworks display if it was connected direct to the set before operation. In the end we taped the lead direct to the earth spike when the set was not in use and this seemed to solve the problem. Apart from these things all sets worked faultlessly using torch batteries for the Racals and special Mallory cells for the Pye Bantams. In the 60 days that we operated from just over 14,000 feet **Gambahadur** handled 210 In messages and more than 300 Out messages. It was the first expedition ever to get formal clearances from the Nepalese government for operating H.F. rear links, and our success has, in this respect, been well noted by next years' International Everest expedition who propose to use the very same sets, frequencies and schedules. I understand they have asked for the same operators as well!

The problems

Back to the mountain. We got there in two parties by the end of March, our recce element having gone forward 10 days earlier. They encountered the heaviest winter snowfall for a generation with waist-deep drifts at 10,000 feet. **Don Whillans** saw his 'Yeti' a little above this altitude one bright moonlit night at a distance of 500 yards after coming across ape-like tracks in the snow earlier on. He was serious and the Sherpas were unhappy. But they pressed on and were able to get a good look at the face which had hitherto been considered impossible. **Don** thought he could see a line and reckoned that it would 'go' provided we could last out and the supplies got through.

At first, progress was smooth and fast, across the glacier that guarded the foot of the face, up through the ice-fall below Camp 2 and then up a long snow gulley that led to the crest of the ice ridge that provided the key to the upper section. **Whillans** and **Haston** reached this col on 7th April, only 10 days after the main party's arrival at base camp.

But this was the start of the real difficulties because it took another month to climb the next 1,500 feet up the ice ridge. This presented some of the trickiest problems of the

"TIBETAN JOE"
Our worldbeater who ran 60 miles back to Pokhara in 26 hours

entire climb and almost everyone in the team had a go out in front forcing a short stretch before retiring exhausted.

At last, on 3rd May, **Chris Bonington** and **Dougal Haston** reached the end of the ridge at the point where it met the great snow slope in the centre of the face. **Whillans** took over and together with **Haston** climbed through this obstacle to find a route through the barrier of ice walls near its top. Then it was the turn of **Mick Burke** and **Tom Frost** who tackled the formidable rock band which gave climbing that was every bit as hard as the north wall of the Eiger but at a height of over 23,000 feet.

The summit push by **Haston** and **Whillans** was the culmination of everything. **Bonington** had got pleurisy earlier on but had struggled back up the mountain to help. **Estcourt** and **Boysen** had burnt themselves out doing the crippling carries from Camp 4 to 5 and 5 to 6. **Mike Thompson** was trying to hold on with terrible mouth ulcers, piles and dysentery, two Sherpas were out of action with dysentery and one with a bad eye infection, **Ian Clough** had mild frostbite and pains in his chest. Everyone was rundown; our food supplies were sadly depleted; the worsening weather heralded the approach of the monsoon. But it was every man to the pumps at this stage and I found myself going up for a prolonged stay of 10 days on the face doing carries up to Camp 4 whilst **Gambahadur** was fitting in a carry to Camp 1 and back in between his early morning and afternoon schedules.

On 27th May at 2.30 p.m. **Don** and **Dougal** reached the top. It was over and the effort had been worthwhile.

Tragedy

Unfortunately the final stages of this giant project were overshadowed by the death of **Ian Clough** who was caught in a serac avalanche below Camp 2 whilst helping to evacuate the mountain on the last day prior to the march-out from base camp on 30th May. He was a great climber and a true companion as I had met him back in March at the Indian/Nepal border after he had brought up 162 large crates of heavy equipment by road from Bombay. Together we negotiated the India and Nepalese Customs and continued over the foothills for two days in new transport to Pokhara and from there walked together with 250 of our 400 porters for the seven days to base camp.

Worth it?

Haggard, rundown, lighter by 19 pounds and shattered by the physical demands made on man by a huge mountain, I sometimes wondered what we were achieving. But surely this great experience is one from which mankind can benefit. It was an example of team-work in the finest sense and superb co-operation between the Army and a great group of civilian climbers.

If it is said that a job worth doing is worth doing well then, conversely, I submit that a job whose noteworthy success is a fine tribute to British mountaineering, must have been worth doing. At any rate, I am proud that the Army, and in particular the Corps, made it possible for me to take part and be associated with the triumph of Annapurna 1970.

Exercise 'High Adventure'

Captain P. J. R. Brown, of 3 Squadron, 1st Division Signal Regiment, describes below one of a number of climbs carried out by him and a party of six soldiers from his unit in the high Alps.

The endurance, the courage and the team work displayed by him and his fellow climbers, Lance-Corporal Clive Higgins and Signalman John Terry in their arduous attempt to climb the north face of the Kleine Wanner makes compelling reading, even for the uninitiated. Unfortunately, space does not permit the description of six other climbs undertaken by Captain Brown and his party, but some of the photographs snapped during these other climbs are included with the article.

NORTH FACE OF THE KLEINE WANNER
Signalman John Terry at the top of a steep slab

A choice of three routes

At 04.00 hours on Tuesday, 7th July, we left our high level camp, pitched outside the Bock Hutte (1,059 m.) and moved to the Anger Hutte, about 5 km. to the west. Our intention was to climb the Kleine Wanner by its north face.

I discussed this with the hut keeper, who told us that there were only three routes up this 3,000 feet of rock. One climbs a series of gullies, slabs and cliffs to a triangular ice field. From here a route lies to the left or right, traversing diagonally upwards until the summit is reached. Alternatively, a route lies straight up the eastern ridge. I rejected this as it looked a long and untidy climb. We decided to climb as far as the ice field and select the left or right route, depending on how difficult the rock appeared at this point.

The decision was made, we selected the equipment we would need and prepared for the climb. The hut keeper wished us luck and said, as we departed: "The routes are graded 'severe.' There are only the three ways up." We nearly made it four!

We set off up a messy slope of grass, bushes and loose boulders, eventually arriving at a slope of frozen snow. This led to the rock wall from where the climb is started. Our three-man party consisted of **Lance-Corporal Clive Higgins,** from Line Troop, **Signalman John Terry** who had 'seconded' from 1 Squadron, and myself.

Precarious going

Using my ice hammer for added security, I started up the frozen snow, kicking steps for the two following behind. I arrived at the bergschrund and selected the best place to cross. Cutting a platform in the snow, I jumped the six-foot gap to a narrow ledge on the rock. The others followed, with me catching their collars as they landed. We roped up and I began to tackle the 30ft. overhanging crack behind us, which appeared to be the only line of weakness at this point. This form of early-morning P.T. is hard work, but I was soon at the top. Having belayed, I brought Higgins up to me and set off up an easier gully. Terry followed, and Higgins joined me at my stance at the top of the gully.

Two more ropes lengths of easier rock brought me to the foot of a nasty-looking slab. It looked as steep as the roof of a Gothic cathedral, with hardly a hold in sight. There was no way round it. It was an old water course, and the rock had been washed smooth by the water. I am never happy with this type of delicate climbing, and had to use tremendous concentration as I inched my way up, using the friction of the palms of my hands and tips of my boot soles. I made about 80ft. under these precarious conditions before arriving at a rounded ledge.

"How much more rope?" Higgins looked tiny below me.

"About 30-odd feet," came the reply. "What's it like?"

"I'll tell you when I get there. You'll have to work this one out for yourself. I can't tell you how to do it."

I continued up the slab, terribly aware of the exposure, and conscious that I must not allow my centre of gravity to pass outside my heels. After the full run of the rope, I reached a stance and belayed.

"Up you come. I can help you a bit with the rope." Higgins followed, taking a little tension here and there to offset the weight of his pack. Half way up he shouted: "Where's all the hand-holds?" I'd heard that one before, during a training climb on the Marienwald in the Oker Valley.

I gave him the same answer: "Brought them up with me."

Hand and footholds breaking off

He joined me on my stance, which was big enough for three, so I decided to bring Terry up as well. Obviously quite at home on this sort of terrain, he came up effortlessly. I set off immediately up a rotten gully, which proved far harder than it looked, with hand and footholds breaking off without warning. We were all glad of the crash helmets we were wearing. We continued up a series of gullies and cracks, always climbing to the right. The rock was so bad in places that I began to suspect we might be straying off route. But I could see the triangular ice field just above me. We climbed one more rope's length and stood at the foot of it.

We go wrong

It was here that I made the mistake. Unbeknown to us, and because of the concave formation of the rock at this point, the ice field on which I now stood was not even visible from the ground. The correct ice field was, in fact, hundreds of feet further to the left. Far below, at the hut, our support party, consisting of **Staff Sergeant Colin French, Corporals Colin Gibbon** and **Chris Tadd,** were watching us intently through binoculars. They could already see we had gone wrong . . .

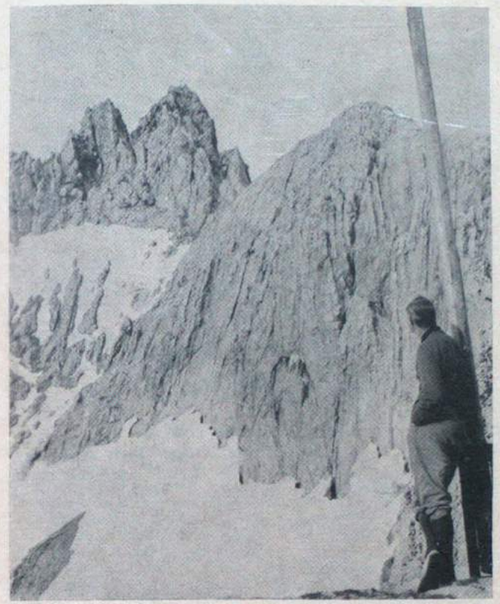
But we were not to know. The ice field was the same shape and I had already decided on the right hand route as being the easier of the two. This, of course, would take us even further away. Blissfully unaware, I crossed the ice and brought Higgins over to a stance below an overhanging crack. We looked at it.

"This is going to be a bit hairy," I said. "We'll have to rope up the packs."

Higgins was not amused.

(Continued on page 457)

(Continued from page 456)



TYPICAL OF THE COUNTRY
Captain Brown surveys the distant Dreitorspitze

Over the overhang

I bridged up the crack to an overhang which appeared to bar all further upward progress. The holds were all loose, but I found one that gave me a sideways pull. Just to be sure, I hammered a piton in below the overhang and attached a runner to it. I then tried to ease my way round to the right of the bulge, but the hold broke off right at the critical moment. A chunk of limestone as big as a wall brick rattled down the cracked and landed with a dull thud on the top of Higgins' pack. I managed to stay in balance.

"I'll have to go over the overhang. Watch me on the runner."

Bridging so wide, I nearly did the splits; I braced both feet against the sides of the crack and reached over the bulge. I was out of balance, with only one good handhold. My scrabbling fingers raced over the rock, scratching, digging and pinching. They found a 'jughandle.' A wave of relief swept over me as I realised that the hold was good. A twist and a jerk and I was over. The rope ran out fast as I raced up to a ledge, hammered in a belaying piton and took in the slack. I crouched there panting like an exhausted bull.

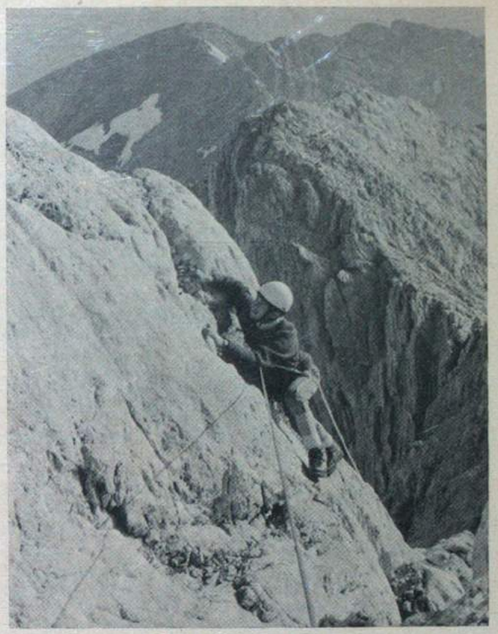
Roping up the pack took a long time, as it kept jamming under the overhang. Higgins had all the trouble in the world getting up. He tried too far to the left and got into immediate difficulties. In the end John Terry came up to join him and they discussed the problem together.

"I think I'll come up on the right. I don't like the look of that overhang. Besides, it'll save having to rope up my pack."

I was a bit dubious, but told him to try. After a masterly piece of climbing, he stood beside me. Higgins followed. Time was racing by, but a cigarette was called for.

The awful cliff towering above me

I was soon off, climbing as fast as safety would permit. The only way appeared to be to the right. It gradually dawned on me that no one had tried this way before. Such difficult rock would be bristling with pitons.



ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE
Corporal Collin Gibbon on an ascending traverse during a later climb

We went on for rope's length after rope's length, and at last I thought I caught a glimpse of the summit. I looked up at the awful cliff towering above me. Could anybody possibly climb it? On the right was a thin crack bristling with overhangs. With a lot of pegs and a great deal of hard work, it might just go. A few wrinkles in the rock led me to believe I might get up the middle. In the end I chose the crack on the left. I brought the other two up and looked at my watch. We had been climbing continuously for ten hours.

"I'm going to have a go at that crack. It it doesn't get any easier above, we'll have to think about getting down."

The crack took every ounce of technique I possessed. I 'chimneyed' up the first 40 feet and fixed a runner over a spike of rock. The next 50 feet were desperate. The crack was too narrow to use the normal 'chimney' method and yet too wide to use a combination of interior and exterior climbing. The smooth, compact limestone offered no place for a piton. I thrutched my way painfully to the top of the crack, which was covered in damp slime, making progress even more difficult. I moved out on to the vertical cliff at the top of the crack and stood on two tiny holds, my fingers clamped round minute flakes in the rock. A few feet above me was what looked like a big hold. From there it looked a little easier. But every time I let go with one hand, the fingers of the other started to open. I was 50 feet above the runner. Terry could never hold me if I came off here.

One last desperate effort

I made one last and desperate effort and almost peeled. My fingers brushed the flake but failed to get any purchase. With the greatest difficulty, I reversed back into the relative security of the crack, shaking from the effort. Now to get down to the others. I searched in vain for a crack to take a piton on which to place the rappel. At last I found a tiny cracklet and, using a special Cassin piton, rapidly hammered it home. It sang like a bird, though the blade was little bigger than a cobbler's nail.

A SUMMIT IS REACHED
Corporal Colin Gibbon and Sapper Dale enjoy a rest in the sunshine

Both ropes were needed to affect the abseil. Terry spliced them together and I hauled them up. Sitting in a sling, I began roping down to the ledge. By a stroke of misfortune, my shirt caught in the snap link through which the abseil rope passed. This acted like a mangle, and as I slowly came down through thin air, my shirt was gradually torn from my back. There was nothing I could do to free it. I arrived on the ledged virtually stripped to the waist with a few tatters of cloth left hanging from the top of my breeches. Worse, I had a deep burn across my neck and shoulders from the friction of the rope. The rest of the descent was going to be painful.

A difficult decision

It was now 19.00 hours and the sun was beginning to sink. I had a difficult decision to make. A quick look at the skies showed that they were still clear. But long fingers of cloud were radiating from the summit of the Hochblassen in the south. There was going to be a storm in the next twelve hours or so. I made up my mind that we should therefore get down as far as possible before nightfall, completing the descent the following morning, even if the weather was bad.

Pulling on a spare shirt and sweater, we prepared to get down. We set off at once, picking our way carefully, making surprisingly good time. I decided to avoid our upward zig-zag route and to rope down a series of vertical cliffs which we had by-passed on the way up. Using two firm pitons as an anchor, we tossed down the ropes before setting off on a series of long abseils.

Forced to bivouac

Time raced by as first dusk and then darkness approached. It was difficult to find the way, but we lost height steadily. Terry did a splendid job safeguarding us down as I picked my way through the gathering gloom. By 22.00 hours we could no longer see, although the ice field at the base of the climb was barely discernable somewhere below. In the darkness it was impossible to tell just how close we were.

"We'll bivouac here."

We were in a shallow scoop in the rock and could just squeeze the three of us in. I scratched around in the dark till I found a crack to take a piton. Sparks flew from the hammer as I struck rock in the darkness, missing the piton completely. Suddenly we saw a light winking from the hut. **Staff Sergeant French** was wishing us goodnight.

We tied ourselves, and then our belongings, on to the piton and pulled on our cagoules. It was a struggle to squeeze into the tent sack, but we sat there huddled together and chewed on our rations, although we were too tired to eat. Finally we dozed off into a fitful sleep. We spent a chilly, yet surprisingly comfortable night.

Down at last

The stars faded and it got lighter. Looking down, I saw that the ice slope was a mere two rope's lengths vertically below us. We packed our gear, roped up, and climbed stiffly down. Half-an-hour later, I was doggedly cutting steps across the 250-foot slope of frozen snow. At last we stood on a grassy bank leading down to the hut. Tired, but in good spirits, we arrived there, where **Colin French** prepared a lavish breakfast. The hut keeper came out shaking his head in mock amazement.

"You were too far to the right," he said. "You cannot get up that way."

We made a silent wager. Shouldering our packs, we began the march back to our camp site. We looked back at the mountain.

"Maybe next year . . . "

We didn't look back again.

Lobstering on the Heiskers—or Monach Islands

A story from the uninhabited islands of the North Atlantic . . .

. . . as related by Signalman George Walton, of 632 Signal Troop, Hebrides.

Windswept Isles

THE Monachs are a group of uninhabited islands in the Atlantic Ocean, situated about ten miles north-west of Benbecula, in the Outer Hebrides. The islands were inhabited in the 17th century by monks, and their name is, in fact, derived from the Gaelic 'Manach,' meaning 'a monk.' Present-day inhabitants are less permanent—visiting fishermen and the occasional student of geography or wild-life.

The Monachs are made up of four islands, namely, Ceann Ear (Gaelic for East End), Ceann Iar (West End), Shillay and Stockay. Ceann Ear is the largest, with an area of perhaps two square miles, and there are ruins of old houses and a school, which is still habitable. Shillay has the second tallest lighthouse in Britain. It is over 150 feet high and was first lit in 1884. Though disused since the time of World War II, it is preserved so that it could be re-lit with little trouble and a supply of diesel oil. The keeper's house is a ruin, however, having been used, apparently, for target practice by the R.A.F. at some time.

An extra hand for the 'Sea Fair'

Last April, I spent a week on the islands with a party of lobster fishermen from Grimsay, near North Uist. I sailed with two brothers, **Roddy** and **Ewen MacKinnon,** in their boat *Sea Fair*. Four other local lads went also, and, in all, three boats left Grimsay that morning of the 20th April. We rode the tide out through the channel between North Uist and Benbecula into the open sea, and from there bounced for about two hours on a very choppy sea westwards to the Monachs. We anchored in Port Roy, unloaded, and set up house in the old school.

The day's work

A typical day on the Monachs started off with breakfast at 8 a.m., round a roaring open fire in the schoolhouse grate. Then it was down to 'Smugglers' Rocks' and the fishing boats anchored in the bay. Roddy, Ewen and I rowed out in a small dinghy to their fishing boat, and shortly after that work started. We sailed out and lifted their nine-dozen creels, and caught, on average, three to four dozen lobsters. The creels were then re-baited wth salt herring and re-set in a different spot. Roddy and Ewen always ensured that they threw their creels out in parts where rocks and seaweed were to be seen, and not, as Roddy teased, in the sandy patches where, as a beginner, I had been guilty of dropping them. This job was really hard work and took, in all, about six hours.

Then it was back to the schoolhouse once more. We each had our special tasks and duties. Ewen would head off to the nearest loch for a supply of fresh water, while Roddy and I went beach-combing to collect driftwood for the fire.

Because I had the honour of being the visitor, they put me in charge of the catering for the week! The menus consisted mainly of 'fry-ups,' tinned foods and eggs—not really very exciting, but as the boys were usually ravenous after their day's work, the meal, whatever it was, went down well.

The fishermen's work was still not finished. Roddy and Ewan asked to be excused from further chores as they had to set to work with their needles and nylon thread to repair their creels. I soon caught on to this—it was mainly a dodge to avoid the dreaded washing-up of dishes!

Evening entertainment

After that, the night was spent 'ceilidhing' round the fire. 'Ceilidh' (pronounced 'caley') is the Gaelic word for a form of home concert—stories, songs, music, and so on, and it was amazing how quickly the time passed, listening to the lobstermen's tales. The oldest in the party, **Roddy Stewart,** nicknamed 'The Reverend,' entertained us with his yarns of Army days and past experiences on the sea. I could not help thinking that a lot of his stories were somewhat exaggerated, but then, a colourful story and a hint of the supernatural are part of the Hebridean culture! **Roddy MacKinnon,** the 'Sugar Baby,' would soon call for a cup of tea, while Ewen, the 'Dark Horse' of the company, and **Neil Stewart,** the 'Teddy Boy,' cracked jokes and teased 'The Rev.' about his old-fashioned ways and methods of lobster fishing. While the tea was brewing **Iain MacKinnon,** nicknamed 'The Lobster,' because of his ruddy complexion, would bring out a flask (half-bottle of whisky) and some screw-tops (bottled beer). Drams, or tots were soon flowing, and it was then that the 'Ceilidh' really warmed up! 'Sugar Baby,' of course, had no need of his tea by then!

There was talk of smugglers and pirates—for instance, the cattle raider from Lewis in an earlier century. The story was told of how they kidnapped a youngster from South Uist to pilot them to a safe anchorage at the Monachs, and how he, using his local knowledge to good effect, leapt overboard and swam to the shore leaving the raiders to drift on to Smugglers' Rocks and perish. If the tide and the condition of the beach is right, I was told, their skeletons are sometimes visible to this day.

Evidence of other unfortunate visitors

Sometimes when work was finished early, we wandered around the islands. I saw the remains of the Spanish trawler *Tulluan* which was wrecked in 1964. 'The Rev.' told me about the *Vanstable*—a ship which was carrying whisky to the United States, and which went aground in 1902. He also knew of the *Infeara,* a French ship which was wrecked off the islands in 1915. He told me how the captain, the only survivor from the ship, had crawled on to the beach, but had died from exposure before the lighthouse-keeper found him. I did, in fact, see the captain's tombstone on the island, and the gravestones of the two German sailors from a U-boat which went aground in World War I. The headstone over the grave of Lieutenant-Commander MacNeil, of Barra, is to be seen on Ceann Iar, and there are also 16 other graves of casualties from the *Infeara.*

The shattered remains of a 16-foot dhory rest on the shore, bearing an unmistakable marking—'R.A. Range'! It must have been carried by ocean current from St. Kilda, 45 miles westward into the Atlantic! From even further away, there is a large buoy with chain links weighing something like a hundredweight, and bearing the words 'Hudson's Bay'!

Natural inhabitants

The islands, being largely free from human interference, have become a nature reserve. Barnacle geese migrate to the Monachs from the far north in their thousands each winter, and shag and cormorant are plentiful all the year round.

Stockay, a very small island near Smugglers' Rocks, is the home of hundreds of grey seals. I went on to the island to watch the seals and found their antics highly amusing. On this island I also found the remains of a whale.

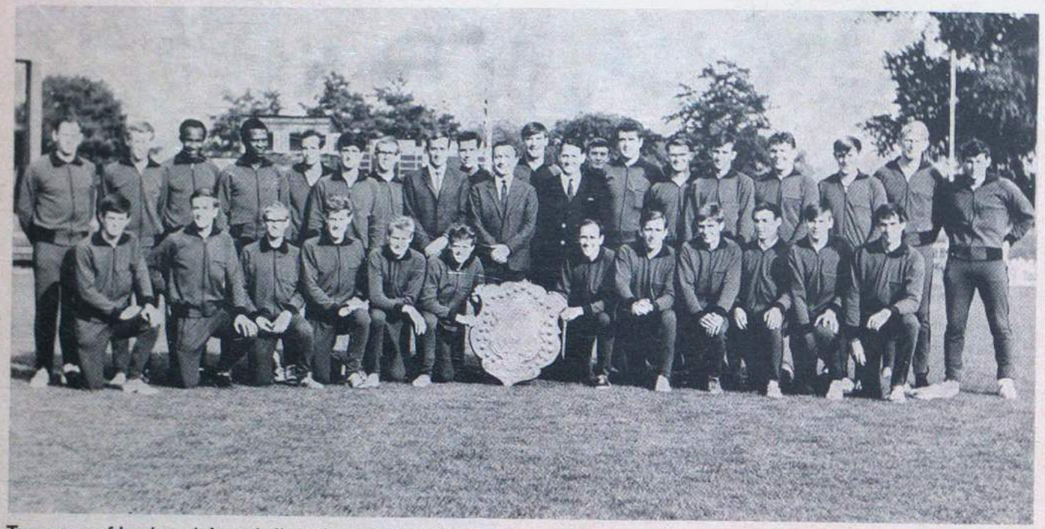
Tragedy

That week, on the Monachs, was a very interesting and enjoyable week—a week which I will always remember. However, at the time of writing this article, a gloom rests over the Monach Isles and Grimsay, for only last week, on 18th June, tragedy struck at the Monachs. Two lobster fishermen from Grimsay—Charles Stewart and a young lad, Donald MacInnes, were found drowned less than 10 yards off the rocks to the south of Ceann Ear. After several air and sea searches, their bodies and their boat, smashed, presumably, by an unusually large wave, were recovered. Charles Stewart, an old sea-dog, had spent most of his fishing life in the waters off the Monach Isles. No one could deny that he was an experienced and highly-skilled fisherman, yet at a time like this, neither he, nor any other fisherman, has control over the powerful and unpredictable Atlantic Ocean.

Make this your resolution for the Seventies . . .

BE BIG—BUY YOUR OWN WIRE

21st SIGNAL REGIMENT – ARMY TEAM ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS, 1970



Two years of hard work by a dedicated group of athletes and supporters won them the Shield which they so proudly display

The Regimental WIRE correspondent writes:

THERE can seldom have been a more exciting finish to an Army Athletics Championship than that on 29th July at Aldershot. At the start of the final event, the 400 metres relay, only three-and-a-half points separated us from our rivals, 19th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. If they won—and they had beaten us three weeks before—we must come second to win the championship.

Our pictures tell the story of the race. **Lieutenant Tom Moncur** came down the straight with the Army champion trailing 15 yards behind, the spectators surged on to the track shouting him on. Symbolically Tom executed a perfect 'Jimmy' as he broke the tape and, amidst scenes of great excitement, 21st Signal Regiment had won the Army Athletics Championship in the 50th Anniversary of both Corps and the Championship Shield.

As regular readers of these notes will know, it took two years of hard work by a dedicated group of athletes and supporters to achieve this victory, and it was a pretty close thing. We would like to record a few credits.

First in line must be **Lieutenant Terry Cantle,** whose cheerful enthusiasm, leadership and determination as team manager for two years was perhaps the largest single factor in our success. Almost as important was the expertise and drive of **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods,** who arrived only this March to find a band of very talented, but rather unfit athletes. It took him ten seconds to accept our ambitions and then five months of slave-driving to get the team almost to the peak that he wanted.

Our photographs shows the highlights of the meeting and some of our key athletes. One who must earn yet another mention is **Corporal Jeff Fenge,** who is undoubtedly the best athlete in the Army; an international pole vaulter with a chance of Olympic recognition, he is also the Army champion hurdler and seems to be able to do just about every event of 400 metres and under. We have used his versatility to the maximum, and at one time he wondered whether we were ever going to use him in the pole vault. At Aldershot he did the pole vault, high jump (5ft. 10in.) and a superb last leg of the hurdles to win by a yard.

Not featured in the pictures is **Lance-Corporal Brian Turner,** who joined with Jeff in breaking the Army team pole vault record by no less than 3ft. 6in. As he also ran the vital leg in the 100 and 200 metres, Brian was undoubtedly a key man. Another old stalwart missing from the pictures is **Corporal Ray Storer,** who saw a dream come true. There was also **Corporal John Gaffney,** an athlete to watch; **Lieutenant Rod Dransfield,** a pole vaulter, who was converted successfully to a hammer thrower (although he was embarrassed to take his 38in. track suit off in the box); **Corporal Black,** who recovered from a badly sprained ankle in time to compete; and so many others.

Finally, we must not forget the reserves, who trained hard until the last minute and then screamed the team to victory. **Corporal Fred Roisseter** must be the best reserve of any team, he was fifth in the B.A.O.R. individual 5,000 metres, but couldn't get in our line-up.

THE 1500 METRES WAS A GREAT EVENT
Corporal Mick Gue (19) followed by Corporal MacMillan (20), Corporal Chris Cottam (18) and Sergeant George Holden (over Chris' shoulder). They finished 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th respectively and broke the Army record

THE RACE THAT WON 21st REGIMENT THE ARMY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Corporal Ginger McNeil, R.A.P.C. takes off in the first leg of the deciding 400 metres race. He sets a good start handing over in third position about twelve yards down a very strong field

Lance-Corporal Percy Drummond takes over from Ginger and breaks the race open by some superb effortless running. Percy has not run for years and was only spotted at the beginning of the season while training for the high jump. He is going to be a great runner

One of the veterans, Lance-Corporal Spider Webb, takes over a useful lead from Percy and keeps it against some very determined running

Lieutenant Tom Moncur starts the last leg with a small lead over the reigning Army champion. Running with absolute determination he breaks the tape and 21st Regiment are Army champions!

While listing the credits, we would like to record our thanks to our many supporters, both in our Regiment and outside. It was a tremendous fillip to the morale of the team to find the Master of Signals and **Lady Scott** and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **General Pentreath,** at Aldershot to watch us. We were particularly happy to be able to present the Master with the Army Championship just two days before his retirement.

We are very grateful to **Major Tony Bushell** and all those at 233 Signal Squadron who hosted, supported us, and finally feted us. Also to **Colonel John Akass** and the 8th Signal Regiment team, who encouraged us during the day. Last, but not least, many thanks to the Editor of THE WIRE, who has given us consistent space and support throughout the past two years, and showed his faith by coming to see us at Aldershot.

Finally, our congratulations to our great friends of 7th Brigade Signal Squadron. They gave us great heart, and it was very disappointing for us that they failed to clinch a wonderful double by winning the Minor Units Championship. They seem to turn up wherever we go, and we salute their courage and determination. We understand that their great old man, **Staff Sergeant Escott,** is even older than our venerable team captain, **George Holden.**

Now on to the Cross-Country Championship. (Readers will recollect 21st Regiment's splendid effort in coming second, earlier this year, in the Army Cross-Country Championships. Their eyes are set on winning it in 1971. May all good luck go with them.—Editor).

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NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1970

WE have received accounts for THE WIRE from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, 4th Signal Regiment, 7th Signal Regiment, 21st Signal Regiment and 12 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron, all of whom entered teams for this great annual event, which involved some 1,700 competitors marching 25 miles for each of four consecutive days in order to gain the coveted medallions.

The marches, this year, seem to have had very much of a Corps flavour, what with the number of Corps teams participating, and the fact that Major-General David Horsfield, of the Corps, representing the C.-in-C., B.A.O.R., took the salute at the final march past.

To cap all this, the Army Apprentices' College team had the honour of representing Great Britain at the opening ceremony, and here they paraded the Union Jack before 22 nations. To avoid duplication in THE WIRE, we have chosen their account of the marches to represent the efforts of all units on this occasion, but include some of the photographs sent in by other units taking part. We apologise to those whose accounts have had to be omitted.

From the descriptions received, one thing is clear, and that is that all those marching did so with great determination and team spirit. Footsore and weary, though they may have been, they upheld the Corps and the British Army's good name to the full.

The Army Apprentice's College at Nijmegen 1970

By Major P. A. H. Spencer, R.A., Officer-in-Charge Team

Preliminary training

The story of this year's Nijmegen Marches, from our viewpoint, really began at the beginning of term last May, when some scores of apprentices offered themselves as potential members of the 16-strong team which was to be chosen to represent not just the College, but the whole of the Regular Army stationed in the United Kingdom. With the Nijmegen Marches, as with everything, the secret of success lies in training, and this was to prove a key factor in deciding for some of the early volunteers that the Nijmegen Marches were not, after all, for them. Some young hopefuls seemed not to believe that, to guarantee being able to march 25 miles on each of four successive days, it would be necessary to cover some 850 miles in practice—which would need to be carried out entirely in their spare time.

This training, as well as difficulties over trade training and education, fairly rapidly whittled the team down to a hard core of 12 Apprentice Tradesmen marchers, namely **Corporal Michael Buckley, Lance-Corporals Stephen Dunlin, Brian Thomson** and **David Crossley,** and **James Hydes** (Phillips Squadron); **David Ruane** and **Roger Gray** (Rawson Squadron); **Robert Syme** and **Kenneth Knaggs** (Scott Squadron). **A/T Sergeant** (now S.S.M.) **Derek Boyd** (Penney Squadron) and **Alan Jones** (Phillips Squadron) were cycle and tent orderlies. **W.O.II J. D. Hill,** W.F.R., of the Army Youth Selection Centre, marched as an individual.

Departure

The sixteen of us, with all our kit, including a bicycle, boarded—crammed might be the better word—a hired minibus at 06.00 hours on 16th July. Harwich having apparently moved rather further south since our driver's last visit, we caught the boat by a margin much thinner than the soles of our boots. The crossing was so choppy that even the crew noticed it: one's sympathy went out to the young apprentice who paid 14s. 6d. for his lunch . . . and retained it for just three minutes!

Kind hosts at 21st Signal Regiment

From the Hook of Holland we travelled by train to Venlo, where we were met by two outstandingly helpful Royal Signals drivers who quickly loaded us on to their vehicles and conveyed us to 21st Signal Regiment, commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Norman But'er.** Here we were given the warmest of welcomes and made thoroughly at home. We are grateful indeed to every member of 21st Signal Regiment for their tremendous hospitality throughout our three days' stay, which gave the apprentices a golden opportunity for seeing at least something of Germany and for recovering after their arduous trip.

On Sunday, 19th July, we joined the other 17,000 marchers in Nijmegen, and in pelting rain. We were accommodated in a vast tented camp erected by the Royal Netherlands League for Physical Culture.

Representing Great Britain

On Monday, 20th July, we were accorded the great honour of being invited to represent Great Britain at the Grand Flag-Raising Parade—a ceremony much reminiscent of the opening of the Olympic Games — when the flags of participating nations are raised, one by one, on the serried flagpoles as the appropriate national anthem is played. As some 22 nations were represented this year, we found ourselves standing to attention and saluting for well over 40 minutes! After this, each representative detachment marched round the arena, the salute being taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. Smitshuijsen,** Garrison Commander, Nijmegen.

Training proved its value

As the Commander of the British detachment, it fell to me to carry the flag: I had never before realised fully the weight of the Standard Bearer's task!

And so, on Tuesday, 21st July, the marches began in earnest. It should be stressed that, officially, the Nijmegen Marches are strictly non-competitive; unofficially, of course, a good deal of 'friendly' rivalry exists. Thus, we may be forgiven for recording that on Day 1 we were overtaken by one other British team only. The effort, however, proved too much for them and they later 'blew up' and were soon re-passed. This proved the only time that we were overtaken, thanks to the expedient of maintaining the normal marching speed at which we had trained—a steady 4½ m.p.h. This stood us in very good stead, not least in enabling us to strike the front of the column early each day and so escape the encumbrance of the marching crowds. The leaders have to contend with far fewer hazards, especially two-legged ones, than those further back.

First back on Day 2

On Day 2, we were the first of all the detachments to arrive back in camp, having completed our statutory 25 miles. Thus, we were about the only detachment to keep dry, a rain storm having broken just after our return. The most noteworthy incident of the day was our encounter with a team of tough, seasoned, American Paras, who were convinced that no team of 'schoolkids' could maintain our normal pace. Their commander was unwilling to accept my bet of 50 guilders that we could, which proved as well for him, but disappointing for us. We did—of course!

(Continued on page 464)

Corps much in Evidence at Nijmegen Marches

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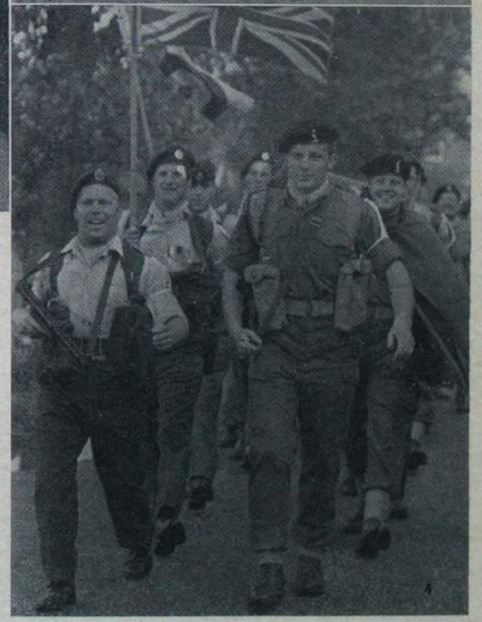

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1. **12th Infantry Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron marched with much gusto**
2. **7th Signal Regiment—dogged and determined**
3. **The Army Apprentices College team in their usual position at or near the head of the column**
4. **21st Signal Regiment cheerful and confident in a combined R.A.F./Royal Signals team.**

OF INTEREST

7th Regiment had only six weeks to prepare themselves for the Marches. They marched through to the end and were awarded their medals

12th Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron team included 4 R.C.T. drivers and an A.C.C. cook. Special mention is made of Signalmen Hulse and Warrilow who stuck it out when many would have given in

21st Signal Regiment contributed six members to the combined R.A.F./Royal Signals Laarbruch team. This team are particularly proud having never had a man drop out since they started training in 1970

4th Regiment covered 300 miles in training. With only 13 team members it was essential that none dropped out for them to gain the team medal. This they succeeded in doing in spite of many blisters and sore feet

(Continued from page 462)

Heavy going on Day 3

Day 3—Thursday—was perhaps our worst. We had to start late, and so had crowd problems. It is virtually impossible to march for any distance without finding a child clinging to one's hand. This may be fair enough, but when she is hanging on to a little brother, and he, in turn, to an even smaller sister . . . !

On this day, too, we met the hills. These caused a good deal of huffing and puffing amongst some of our 'rivals,' but our boys, trained on Yorkshire gradients of 1-in-6, made as short work of them as they did of the rest. This much impressed the locals: that anyone can march, at 4½ m.p.h., uphill, *and sing!* Really, these English!

It was, incidentally, noticeable that on Day 3 other detachments had shrunk considerably in numbers.

First British team in

And so we came to Day 4, Friday, 24th July, with no problems, and 'rarin' to go.' And go we did: we were the first British—and overall third—detachment into the assembly area, having passed the final check point. Here we changed into shirt-sleeve order, No. 2 Dress slacks and caps, and best boots, for the final march past. Brass bands were again out in force, and there must have been fully 100,000 spectators, apart from those watching on television, at the closing ceremonies. It was most appropriate for us that the officer taking the salute at the final march past was none other than **Major-General D. R. Horsfield,** Chief Signal Officer, H.Q., B.A.O.R., who was representing the Commander-in-Chief.

We were then presented with our team medallion, awarded to teams who finish complete, i.e., with no 'dropouts'—for us a foregone conclusion attained by the severe training! In addition, each member of the team received an individual Nijmegen Marches medal—a gilt five-armed cross on a green and yellow ribbon. These, as an especial and fully-earned distinction, were worn on Graduation Parade.

Very high standard maintained

It had been an immensely successful ten days, and we should like to thank **Lieutenant-Colonel Butler** and all ranks of 21st Signal Regiment for their kind help and very generous hospitality. For the boys who took part, praise was lavish from all quarters, for both their performance and their demeanour throughout. **For myself, what matters is not that they had achieved any particular distinction, but that they had throughout conducted themselves, in the most testing circumstances, in the manner which one would expect from apprentices representing their College, the British Army and their country. Not once did they allow their very high standards to slip, and I simply could not have been more proud of them.**

Footnote.—We learn from unofficial figures just to hand, from the B.A.O.R. Secretary, Nijmegen Marches, that of the 67 British teams entered from B.A.O.R. and the United Kingdom, 31 qualified for the coveted award of the Team Medallion—a percentage of 46.

A Soldier visits Lourdes

By Sergeant M. B. McPARTLAND, 226 Signal Squadron

25,000 Allied Troops participate

IN February, 1858, a young peasant girl saw an apparition of a lady in a small town situated in the south west of France. The ensuing events transformed that insignificant little town into one of world fame, and over the past hundred years or so has been the destination of countless millions of pilgrims. Between the 11th and 17th June of this year, 25,000 allied troops from all over Europe formed to make the 12th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

For me, the pilgrimage started at Hannover Station, where I met **Father Swan** and his party from Berlin. The train journey was long, but pleasant. Music was 'piped' into each carriage and was stopped only for the occasional announcement. Once the train entered France, the French Army provided us with packed food.

On reaching our destination no time was wasted. We were shown our hotel accommodation and asked to get quickly into uniform for the first item on the programme. This was the Mass of Arrival, during which the sermon was given by the Senior R.C. Chaplain-General to the British Armed Forces, **Bishop Tickle.**

The programme was indeed a full one. It included the Stations of the Cross, the International Eucharistic Service, a Service of Penance, posing for a contingent photograph and, of course, the famous torchlight procession at night. This was, for me, the highlight of the pilgrimage.

'Colonel Bogey'!

After the evening meal, on Saturday, 13th June, we all assembled at the Hotel Saint Danial and formed up in line, and, under the command of an Infantry Officer, we started to march through the town. Somebody at the front must have started to whistle 'Colonel Bogey,' because within seconds of being outside the hotel grounds, the whole contingent was whistling it. To my surprise, bedroom windows opened and elderly French residents started to clap and cheer the British 'Squadies,' who were obviously reviving past memories for them.

It was almost dark by the time we arrived at the assembly point, so all lit their candles in preparation. When the signal was given, we all re-formed in line and slowly moved towards the vast underground Basilica of Saint Pius X. As we walked in slow procession, an organ played the hymn 'Ave, Ave, Ave Maria,' and it was broadcast over Tannoy speakers. The pilgrims raised their candles above their heads as they sang those words, and believe me, to see this is absolutely fantastic. The procession terminated in the square of the Upper Basilica.

The Theme—'Peace'

When all the troops were settled in their respective places, the service began. Prayers were said in the languages of all nations present. The theme was 'Peace.' To the right of the dais, a French Army military band provided the music, and at one point in the service it suddenly switched to jazz. A very swinging version of 'Dona nobis pacem' was followed with hymns sung to the tune of 'Down by the Riverside,' 'Michael Row The Boat Ashore' and 'We Shall Overcome.' I was not the only one surprised, yet somehow it all seemed to fit in.

The programme provided plenty of opportunity to see the town at one's own leisure. At the actual grotto, a line of discarded crutches can be seen hung up. These have been left by former pilgrims who found that they had no further use for them.

A little further on there are the baths, where pilgrims can submerge themselves in the grotto water, should they wish. In the town one can see the two homes where the family of Bernadette lived and the convent where she went to school. There are, of course, many souvenir shops.

A sense of unity and comradeship

Looking at the event as a whole, what impression did it leave on me, purely from a soldier's point of view? In Lourdes I saw thousands of soldiers of all different nationalities, all parading, playing and praying 'together.' In the evening, for example, these troops just about took over the town. You could see the most unlikely combination of groups—a German airman, a French soldier, a Scot (with kilt, of course), a Spanish sailor and an Austrian, all singing and dancing in the streets.

What was most astonishing of all, there was not an M.P. of any kind to be seen. Nor was there any need for one. Towards the closing days of the pilgrimage, there was so much exchange of Regimental badges and insignia, it was hard to tell from which country the soldiers belonged. And to me, this symbolised the real sense of 'Oneness' that was created in those few days.

On the day of departure one pilgrim told me that he had just completed his tenth pilgrimage to Lourdes. I replied that one day I, too, will be able to say the same thing.

Get with it! Order your Wire NOW!

"Casting yourself off from high places"

The Sennelager Saga

As described by Staff Sergeant J. Q. Hazard of 13th Signal Regt.

THE Regimental adventure training season had begun—'Enterprise II.' "Take two or three junior ranks away for three to seven days and do something unusual!" But what? I had heard one of the S.S.M.s say that there were certain members of his Squadron who had occasional uncontrollable urges to cast themselves from high places, so why not take two or three of them, get the necessary training, and then make one or two parachute jumps? With this in mind, I started the rumour that I was looking for volunteers, and waited for them to pour in.

Eventually there were three volunteers, one of whom I suspected had been 'persuaded' by the other two—maybe that S.S.M. had said there were certain members of his Squadron, whom HE had the occasional uncontrollable urge to cast from high places!—so I made application to the Rhine Army Parachute Association (RAPA) which is based at the Sennelager Training Centre (STC), B.F.P.O. 16, for myself, **Signalmen Terry O'Neil, Chris Roe** and **Tom Burns** to attend the first week of Free Fall Course 3/70 commencing 22nd April, 1970.

Our applications were accepted by RAPA and we were told that should the weather prove favourable, and their aeroplane (a Rapide called 'Rhinegold') be serviceable, we could expect to make six descents in our allotted week. So, after getting the necessary forms completed, we waited for 22nd April to roll round.

Things start to go wrong

As sometimes happens, things started to go wrong! Instead of being told that I couldn't go, I was wished the best of luck, and it was hoped I would have a good time! **Tom Burns** injured his wrists (whilst shaving one morning?), and **Chris Roe** couldn't be spared from shift duties! So, when the 22nd did finally arrive, it was **Terry O'Neil** and myself only who departed from Mercury Barracks to learn the mysteries of RAPA, STC, BFPO 16.

On arrival at the STC we were directed to the attic of Argyle Block, where the RAPA Secretary checked our documents and booked us in. The attic was mainly used for repairing the parachutes, and a couple of sewing machines were in busy use. I noticed two of the instructors punching eyeholes in a large strip of canvas, and as it didn't look like a parachute canopy or pack, I casually asked what it might be. "It's a new piece for the Rapide's fuselage," I was told. "Don't worry though, we'll have it on and painted by the time you lot are ready to jump!" . . . He was wrong.

Ground training gets under way

Next morning, after the one and only parade of the course, we travelled over to Bad Lippspringer, where RAPA has its club house, indoor training building, parachute store and runway-cum-DZ. After an introductory talk by the C.I., **Sergeant Bob 'Guys' Ackermann,** R.C.T., the 'ground training' got under way!

Parachute landing falls (PLFs), side rights, side lefts, front rights, front lefts, back rights, back lefts . . . endless! Parachute packing—nerve racking! Aircraft safety drills: "If anything goes wrong with the aircraft on take-off and we are between 500 and 1,000 feet, follow my heels through the door and use your reserve parachute!" Exit drills (from a mock-up of a Rapide). "I shall offer you the wing; left foot out, left hand on the wing strut; right foot out, right hand on the wing struct; compact position; 'slight dig in ribs'; off into the stable position; start counting — 1001—1002—1003—1004—1005—1006 . . . "

. . . then open your eyes

So passes Thursday, Friday and Saturday. By Sunday we have enough ground training to enable us to make a descent. However, the Rapide isn't 'on the road' yet, and anyway, the weather continues to be overcast, windy, and with more than occasional rain. So it's back to PLFs—"you can't do too many of these! Parachute packing—we've managed to pack one under supervision. Aircraft safety drills: "If after you have left the wing, and done your count, you open your eyes and see you're travelling alongside and slightly below the aircraft, don't think you've been blessed with the power of flight, you've probably got a 'hang-up'; this is what you do!" Exit drills (Rapide)—"When I offer the wing to No. 1, I don't want No. 2 to try and get out there with him, it upsets the pilot, the trim of the aircraft, and you may pull the wing off." Into the stable position—"1001—1002—1002—1004, etc., etc., etc."

So passes Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday! No change in the weather! No change in the Rapide! On Tuesday a party from the course went over to Detmold (Rhinegold's Base) to have a look at her, I think to prove she really existed! **Bob Ackermann** promised, "Don't worry 'guys,' if the weather is good enough to jump, and the Rapide's still not ready, I'll get an A.A.C. Beaver or a civilian Cessna over here!" Anyway, **Terry O'Neil** and I have run out of time, our week is up, so we RTU on Wednesday evening—only to be told we can have a further two days to try and get a jump in!

So it's back to Lippspringer, and a few more PLFs—"You just can't do *too* many of these!" Parachute packing—"Wasted effort," we think, "we'll never get to use them!" Aircraft safety drills—"If you happen to notice someone in the aircraft has a broken tie, don't wait until his 'chute pops, and he gets dragged through the door or fuselage before you decide to do something!" Exit drills (Rapide)—"Don't forget!—when you leave the wing—straight into the stable position—head well back, look at me if you can, I want to see your green face and terror-stricken eyes. 1001—1002—1003, etc., etc. . . . "

On Friday, the weather is brighter with very little wind. "Well 'guys,' it looks good! There's an A.A.C. Beaver coming over at 10.00 hours, so we'll have half-an-hour on the drills, then if the weather's still okay, you can jump!"

Aircraft and Exit drills (Beaver)—"There are three jumpers from this aircraft, not six as with the Rapide; No. 1 sits there, No. 2 there, No. 3 there and the Jumpmaster there. If you look closely you'll notice that there's no bottom wing on this aircraft as there is on the Rapide, so you can't use it for your exit can you? Don't worry—all you have to do is slide to the door—if you're No. 1 you're there anyway—legs out—upper body half-turn right facing forward, lower body, left cheek off, legs bent, knees pointing forward; right hand door frame right; left hand door frame left; 'slight dig in ribs'; into the stable position—1001—1002—1003, etc. etc."

We are on the first lift . . . squeeze in . . . off we go . . . must be over 500 feet by now and I havn't seen the Jumpmaster's heels go through the door, so all must be well so far . . . O'Neil looks cool, calm and collected in his No. 3 position . . . not like I feel (I didn't realise that he couldn't see out from where he sat! He told me afterwards that it wasn't until he swung his legs out and had a good look around that he realised just where he was) . . . time to go . . . out goes No. 1 (a member of the Dutch Air Force) . . . the Jumpmaster smiles and offers me the door, gets a sickly grin in return as I slide over and put my legs out . . . upper body half turn left . . . lower body half turn right . . . acute pain in middle . . .something must be wrong . . . I'm facing the tail and I should be facing the nose . . . the Jumpmaster yanks my shoulders round until I'm facing the right way . . . left cheek off, knees pointing forward, hands on door frame left and right, 'slight dig in ribs' . . . into the stable position . . . head back . . . look at the Jumpmaster and see his lips form a well-known military expression of affection—'1001—1002 etc., etc."

Three descents—and we were lucky

We managed to get three descents each and considered ourselves lucky to get that many! Then we RTU'd for the second time, but now more contented. We would have been disappointed to have done all the ground training and not put it to its ultimate use. (We learnt later that the day after we left, the weather became ideal for parachuting, and remained so for a week; also the Rapide became serviceable and was actually seen flying!).

Although these few lines have been put together with the intention of giving a humorous account of our experiences at RAPA, STC, BFPO 16, I would like to add that the instruction we received was first class, and that **Bob 'Guys' Ackermann,** although a born comedian, is renowned for his 'safety consciousness,' as are the entire staff. We are very grateful to them for all their efforts in ensuring that we came to no harm.

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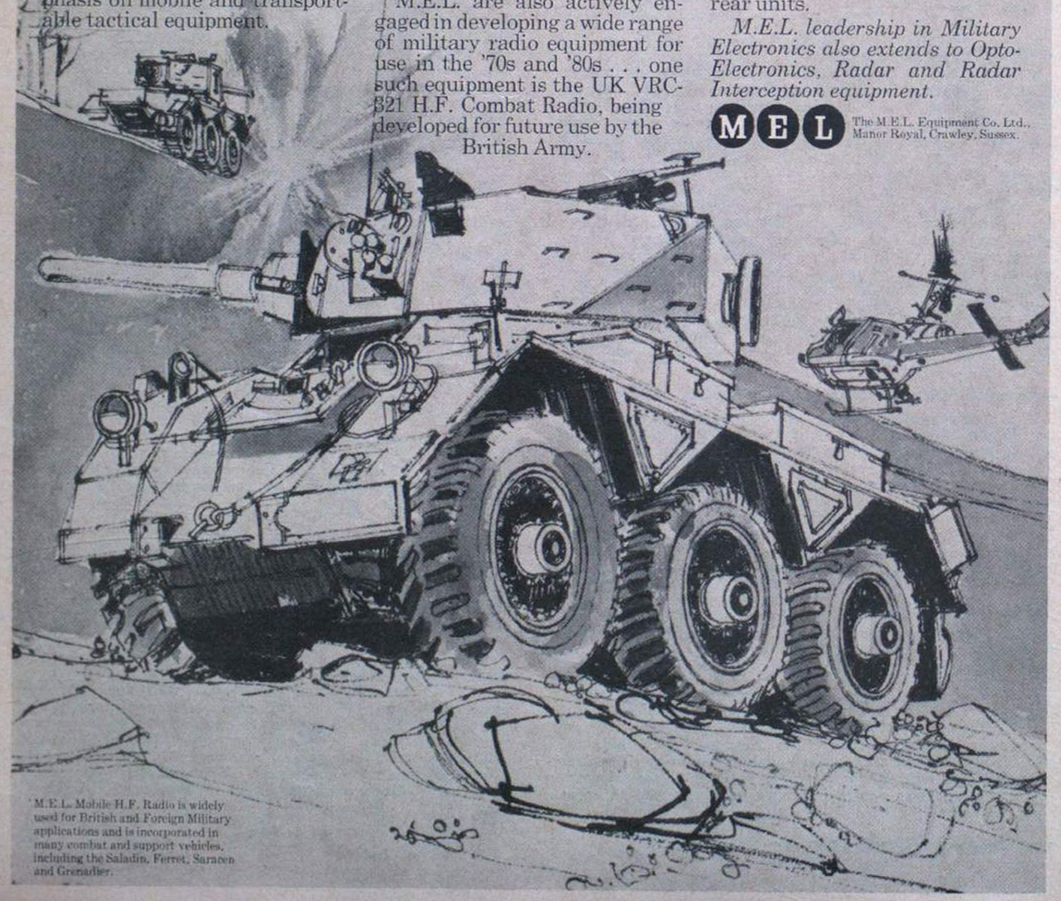

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Who's for a sail?

By Sergeant M. F. Court, School of Signals

04.30, Monday, 22nd June—will I ever forget it? It found me leaning over the side of the Corps yacht, 'Skywave,' contemplating my misery in a heaving, pitching sea. How did I end up here? forsaking a comfortable office. Was it the spirit of adventure; the call of the sea? No, the draft letter calling for names passed through my hands from Major Adams, and looked good for a week's paid holiday . . . well, if not a holiday, at least a week off from the office.

Three crews

Three crews were needed, the first to take *Skywave* from Marchwood to Falmouth; the second from Falmouth - Scillies - Falmouth, and the third to return her home. Luck—and the fact that my name was given to **Major Adams** before he had his draft back—put me in the Scillies crew, and so, with **Corporal Alan Armstrong, Corporal Alex Taylor** and **Private 'Jock' Gillespie** (a last-minute 'volunteer' from 14th Signal Regiment) we found ourselves on Saturday, 20th June, on the hard, wooden floor of Falmouth T.A. hall waiting to board ship on the Sunday morning.

At an ungodly hour for a Sunday, we arrived at the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club, and found active life already going strong out to sea, and within a few minutes the departing crew joined us ashore—**Corporal Bill Hughes, Sergeant 'Dinger' Bell, Corporal Strugnell** (14th Regiment) and **Major Le Hardy.** They wished us well and went off back to Blandford, still muttering about a 15-foot fish that had been swimming alongside somewhere en route. The skipper (**Major Adams**) and mate (**Major Castle-Smith**) welcomed us aboard. *Skywave* looked small to me—32 foot of boat to brave the waves, and certainly not enough room for all six of us to sunbathe together.

With breakfast made (and I use the word 'made' advisedly) and eaten, we started learning the rudiments of sailing, rather confusing at first, but a strange pattern emerged; someone shouted an order and we did our best to obey, though listening to the language that followed, one doubted it.

All set for the Scillies

Lunch came and went, and we got under way for the 2s. 6d. trip round the bay, anchored in St. Mawes while the mate went ashore for ice cream—I was still under the delusion it was a holiday when asked what I wanted ashore for the crew's tea.

While the crew watched the passing boats and mini-skirts, a weighty discussion seemed to be going on down below about tides, force 6 winds, visibility, and the like, and eventually we, the crew, were asked if we would like to make a start for the Scillies at 6 p.m. Fools that we were, we agreed, and under full sail, left the calm, peaceful harbour for the wide open, up-and-down life of the sea. We split into two watches (shifts for the likes of me), 'Skip' looking after **Alex Taylor** and **'Jock' Gillespie,** and the mate likewise for **Alan Armstrong** and myself. 'Skip's' watch was on first, leaving the rest to sleep. I couldn't, and went aloft to show my tummy why we kept going up and down. I seemed to win, and watched 'Jock' and Alex succumb to the malaise first, and later, during our watch, Alan also. I should never have laughed; as soon as our watch finished and I had taken the safety harness off, 'I felt the call of the sea,' and beat a hasty retreat back aloft to join my predecessors in leaning over the side. The winds were blowing hard, while we were running straight into the Atlantic rollers, the boat leaning over to one side, going up and down. I began to doubt my judgement and wisdom in volunteering, but after going below, I slept soundly until 9 a.m., when I found that all was well and we were 'parked' in Hugh Town harbour on the main island. I could hardly believe it, the yacht was almost still, but the thought of firm land under my feet pulled hard on my thoughts, and within the hour I was ashore buying fresh food and anti sea-sick pills.

A small, quaint and pleasant town

Hugh Town is a small, quaint town, and very pleasant, though it didn't take long to explore, when, during the afternoon everyone went ashore. The major point of interest, and dominating Hugh Town, is the Garrison, a fortification containing a 16th Century hotel, which one enters through an archway bearing the crest of Elizabeth I. An interesting fact is, that with only nine miles of road, no licence plates are needed, no road tax is paid, and no registration required. It looked strange seeing cars going past with blank spaces where their number plates should have been.

Three crew members checked the 'native customs' in the local, while the skipper, mate and I did likewise at the 'Pilot's Gig,' a sort of down-under restaurant of local repute.

Tuesday morning, a last visit to Hugh Town, and after lunch, with a wind blowing, we departed for a 5s. trip round the islands, mooring in the channel between the Islands of Tresco and Bryher, a hundred yards from Cromwell Tower, which, in turn, was 100 yards from Charles Castle. Coming into the channel, we saw some upper works and mast of a wreck, later discovered to have been a Greek ship which had gone aground in thick fog this year.

We had nicely settled in—tea brewing and all ship-shape after our trip when our first (and only) visitor came calling, a local of some interest, who told us stories of the wrecks and especially the one at the entrance to the channel, the crew of which he had rescued, but seemed reluctant to talk about wreckers.

Wednesday dawned, and stayed, a miserable and damp day, so card games developed, followed by an evening visit to the island's only pub to dampen the inside as well. No mention will be made of our return, other than it took me over half-an-hour to row from the shore to the yacht (a distance of 75 yards) having drunk nothing but Coke!—I began to learn about 'tidal streams.'

On Thursday morning the sun came out, and all members went ashore. Skipper, mate and I to explore Tresco Abbey gardens. These are genuinely tropical, with coconut and banana trees growing in the open, but kept warm by a thick band of pine trees in the lee of the island. I was quite overawed by the garden; so much to be seen and so little time left to see it in (I must visit the garden again sometime).

A smooth return to the mainland

Thursday lunch and thence the trip back to the mainland. I dreaded the thought, and the other crew members likewise, but, thank goodness, on leaving our safe anchorage, no wind and a fairly smooth sea with a following swell. The engine was started and at last I managed to sunbathe on the deck, watching Land's End slowly approaching through the haze and enjoying a lazy afternoon, thinking 'this is the life for me.' Curiously enough, after an hour or two I began to get bored and hoped for a little wind so that we could sail and put into practice all we had learnt. It was not to be; we motored the whole way into Falmouth, arriving at 04.30, with me up front, stretched flat out, peering for buoys and boats in the gloom, but even so, we moored safely and slept until 10.00 before going ashore. I then had the disturbing experience of watching Falmouth swaying in the breeze, while I tried to find my land legs!

Falmouth didn't seem to have changed much in the intervening time, but I had; no longer did I think of sailing as 'messing about on the river,' now I thought of it as a hard task master, though a well-rewarding one.

Afterthought.—Please, 'Skip,' bear me in mind for the next trip; I'll even write THE WIRE *notes again.*

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THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY 1969

Yet another Corps 1970 success!

7th Regiment Team beat all-comers in tough B.A.O.R. Parachuting Exercise

EXERCISE 'Parashot' is designed for soldiers of Rhine Army who have qualified either as sport or military parachutists to display their skills in a challenging and enjoyable manner.

Teams are required to drop by parachute on to a dropping zone, where they make contact with an agent and collect 160lb. of equipment. They then have to move tactically across country for twelve miles and on the way carry out certain tasks, which included a demolition where dogs were patrolling, a difficult river crossing, followed by an ambush and a most realistic casualty. After a range practice on Sterling machine-guns, teams moved into position for a tactical withdrawal by helicopter.

The Team

The members of the Regiment who took part in the competition were as follows: Officer-in-charge of the team, **Lieutenant I. M. S. Cross;** patrol commander, **Sergeant T. Jarrett;** members, **Corporal D. G. Robertson, Corporal R. Burrow, Signalman D. G. K. Hynds;** reserve, **Corporal B. A. Smith.**

The team won *The Daily Telegraph* Trophy for the overall winners, and narrowly missed the Rothman's Trophy for the team using the best parachuting techniques. The latter trophy was won by the Regiment last year.

Thanks

When considering our success, we should not fail to appreciate the kind co-operation given to us by various departments and individuals. Our special thanks go to **Corporal George Shone,** a member of the Regiment who is detached to the Rhine Army Parachuting Centre at Bad Lippspringe. He gave up a great deal of his own time to provide instruction and training for the team, and this was evident in the marks gained. We are grateful to **Sergeant R. S. Actaman,** R.C.T., the Chief Instructor, for providing facilities and equipment at his centre, and also to 655 Aviation Squadron for providing an aircraft for over a day and a half, at very short notice, for practice jumping.

Training and preparation

The team finally got together only ten days or so before the competition, and the result gained was a fair achievement.

Training started with shooting practices followed by Bergen marches and instruction in patrol tactics and movement. It was concluded by tactical helicopter handling and the parachuting, where each member made eight descents and **Corporal Roger Burrow** graduated to a five-second delay free-fall descent.

As a Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R., we have very little Infantry equipment, and there were frantic moments as we gathered up the necessary kit from various sources. We were hampered by the fact that many of the local Infantry Regiments were on standby for Northern Ireland, and therefore could not release the necessary equipment.

The actual day

The day of the exercise began with an early start for **Lieutenant Cross,** who rushed off to Munster at 06.00 to borrow the new-style combat suits from The Royal Green Jackets stationed there. After a frantic last-minute rush, we all set off for Sennelager, with all our equipment.

When the draw took place, there was slight disappointment, as we were the second team to jump on the last day. The extra time was put to good use, as we continued training to polish up our drills for the later patrolling.

At 04.00 hours, three alarm clocks rang out to make sure we were awake, and by 05.00 the whole team was wide awake and anxious to start. When we arrived at the airfield a delay of 90 minutes was announced. Throughout the day there were further delays due to low-lying mist. However, at 14.00 hours the team emplaned, after a few protein-filled 'banjos,' produced by our camp site staff, **Signalmen Mike Whitehead** and **'Robbo' Robinson** of 4 Squadron.

The jump went well, but through sheer misfortune, **Corporal Don Robertson** landed just out of view of the DZ control and was unable to gain any marks for his landing. The field packing was excellent, the team having the fastest time overall and also in clearing the DZ.

The military side went into top gear when the team gained maximum marks from the first agent—the only team to do so. Generally, the marks were excellent, and 99 per cent was gained in the medical section. This may have been due partly to **Sergeant Jerry Jarrett's** reassuring remark to his badly-shocked patient, who had little hope of survival, that within three days he would be on the beer again.

When the patrol was carrying out the river-crossing a cloud-burst occurred and **Corporal Roger Burrow** made a dramatic entry into the water. This happened when the string attached to the raft was pulled by the agent on the other side, dragging **Corporal Burrow** into the murky depths, and placing him at the mercy of an irate swan! This caused great amusement to several German spectators.

The remainder of the patrol action went so well that we overtook the team in front beating them to the helicopter pick-up point. In fact we were the only team to return by this means as the weather worsened and Land Rovers were used, the helicopter having had to return to its base.

The team then changed into the new combat suits from their wet clothing. We did not wear the new suits during the competition as we found them to be too heavy and warm for any sort of strenuous exercise. We remained in light-weight denim clothing throughout the competition. However, when the team went up to collect the trophy, and their tankards, they were a very professional sight. The cup was then filled with champagne and the team had a well-deserved drink after an exciting and enjoyable exercise.

Peggy

A tribute to a real friend of the Regiment

By Signalman James Flannagan, of 28th Signal Regiment

TO anyone who was to meet **Miss Margaret Power (Peggy** to her friends) say in the street whilst shopping, a second glance would be considered quite unnecessary. She looks just what she is, a middle-aged lady, with that gentle aura of homeliness one normally associates with a sincere and motherly approach to things.

Yet one glance could never do justice to this lady, and it is for that reason the pen of just one of her huge 'family circle' has been put to paper in order to say both "Thank you" and spotlight just how lucky we are at 28th Signal Regiment in having **Peggy Power** of the W.R.V.S. to look after us.

All things worthy of being written about undergo some sacrifice when it comes to knowing where to start and (due to limited space) what to leave out. You see, **Peggy** has had both a long and most varied career in 'uniform' and, eventually, after much persuasion, having her permission to write this article, I found the memories that came tumbling out through our conversation just too much for one entry in THE WIRE. Nevertheless, a mention at least will now be made.

In the summer of 1945, barely a few weeks before the end of the war, the ranks of that noted organisation, the Women's Voluntary Service as it was then called, was increased by one with the arrival in Germany of **Margaret Power.** From then until 1957, when a break of three years for service in the United Kingdom came along, **Peggy** spent all her time with British and Commonwealth troops throughout Europe. Of places her reminiscences recalled, one in particular was with H.Q. Staff in Brussels where just about most elements of the British Army were represented. Also, towns with names like Enschede and Iserlohn where **Peggy** was to spend seven years with a regiment which she still sometimes calls her very own, namely Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Then in 1960, **Peggy,** whose parents were both elderly and in failing health, left the W.V.S. to care for them. Sadly, within months of each other, her mother and father died in 1962.

Not much more than a year later, quite unable to settle in a 'civilian routine,' back she came to the Women's Voluntary Service, Germany and us!

When I asked her what her first main task was at '28' typically she sat and thought for a moment then replied, "Main task? No, I don't think I had anything I would call a main task. I just spent a week moving the furniture around to the way I liked it, did some cleaning and just sort of put the 'house' in order."

But what **Peggy** did not say, apart from making sure the papers from back home are there promptly everyday and arranging her carpeted 'communal living room" with its comfortable armchairs and sofas and colour T.V. to their best advantage, she also runs a one woman travel agency with the facilities provided by coach/air/sea companies, and subsequently books tickets for our lads when they take either local or home leave or just want an outing. I do not forget, of course, the mountain of magazines she is for ever adding to for our perusal. Yes, from the youngest recruit to the 'veterans' she looks after all.

Remember I said earlier how difficult it is to know where to start an article like this? Well, I should have added that it's just as difficult to know where to end. However brief this little record of service must be, there is one thing I am sure that it is nowhere near an end, and I am certain that **Peggy Power** will continue for many years to come.

Although you must be amongst the longest serving members of the W.R.V.S. please 'carry on' Peggy, and on behalf of past, present and future lads of 28th Signal Regiment—thanks for everything—bless you Peggy.

(**Signalman James Flannagan,** who wrote the above, had only been in 28th Signal Regiment a few weeks when he felt impelled to pay this tribute to **Peggy.** Perhaps we might add to this what a nice thought on the part of **Signalman Flannagan.** —Editor).

News from Regiments

1st. Division Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 32

"Bavaria—warm, no rain; Berlin—sun, no cloud; Norway—light rain, cool."

THIS was the weather report which appeared as a notice to Regimental Part I Orders of the Regiment at Verden recently.

Needless to say there was some head scratching, but to the initiated it all made sense, as indicated the start of:

EXERCISE 'NORDIC NUANCE'

Out Stations in Norway, Bavaria and Berlin

A test in long-range radio communications, the exercise had had its beginnings many months previously when plans were put in hand to link Norway with the home base. Then the idea was developed to include detachments in Mittenwald (Bavaria) and Berlin.

And that's how prospective Verden holidaymakers knew just what to expect of the elements in three far-distant points of the compass.

Manning the three 'Out Stations,' which kept up twice-daily schedules with the Regiment, were two Officers and a party of 30 men.

The Scandinavian group was accommodated with the Norwegian School of Signals at Jørstadmoen, near Lillehammer, which is probably well known to a lot of readers. On their way to Norway they had staged overnight with the Jutland Signal Regiment at Aarhus which already has close links with 1 Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment, a number of trophies having been donated by officers and soldiers during previous visits.

The following soldiers formed the Norwegian party: **Second-Lieutenant J. Kirby, Corporals Flockhart** and **Mooney, Signalmen Cardall, Brown, Little, Kelliher, Lewis, Smith, Goodman** and **Mitchell. Second-Lieutenant Gibb** commanded the Bavarian Detachment and **Staff Sergeant Locke** the Berlin one.

Schedules

Schedules were worked and following the assistance given by the Norwegian Signals School, in making available a site for the antennas within the barracks, it was with some relief that communications were established. For there had assembled to observe the opening transmission a few Norwegian Army Officers and soldiers.

Local hospitality

As had been foretold by previous visitors to Jørstadmoen the help and hospitality was tremendous. The Commanding Officer, **Oberst Omreng,** and the host officer **Feur (Second-Lieutenant) Storm-Hansen** made available accommodation, transport and Messing. They also arranged for the party to see some of the Norwegian equipment, including the Volvo Jeep; although a different shape it is used in much the same role as our Land Rover, but has one big advantage—in the form of a really powerful heater. The party were also shown the Norwegian assault ration pack (2,470 calories) and they found out that the local equivalent to corned beef is nicknamed 'Dead Man.'

A visit to the Hunderfossen hydro-electric power station some 15 kms. north of Lillehammer was also made.

Norway to Verden on a Manpack Set

One of the noteworthy tests undertaken was a manpack radio schedule from Norway to Verden. An SR A 13 was 'manpacked' up a mountain named Reinsfjell (1,066 m.). This peak is just above the village of Nordsetter (960 m.) which to former members of Whiteshod Courses will be well known! Perhaps the existence of a discotheque in the village influenced the final decision of the location for the test. The A 13 was used on both an afternoon schedule and a morning one, and good communications were established with Verden.

The party returned complete and without misadventure, apart from a somewhat 'asthmatic sounding' Land Rover, to Verden having completed a valuable ten days of training, which was also very interesting.

Baltic sailing

If the dubious distinction of the radio squadron possessing A2 (Bavarian) Troop upsets the O.C., **Major Bernard Allen,** then he can no doubt smile with some small measure of satisfaction if I refer to 1 (Kiel) Squadron. Since not only has the O.C., **Major John Harrison,** been there assisting with running the Royal Signals regatta, of which more details appear elsewhere in this issue, but it has also seen quite a few members of that Squadron enjoying an adventure training Exercise 'Viking Return II.'

This exercise was much the same as one last year and involved three crews each having a week's 'adventurous' sailing.

Long trips from Kiel to ports in Denmark, and round the Baltic waters, proved to be most beneficial to those members who were lucky enough to get a vacancy on this exercise.

Other activities

The Regiment is now preparing for that bi-annual event, the Divisional FTX, from which we shall be returning in mid-October.

Sport continues with the cricket season gradually giving way to rugby, soccer and hockey.

Adventure training continues and at present 2 Squadron are away in various parts of Germany, including Bavaria and the Rhineland.

There are many other minor snippets of news to report but —as all regular readers of THE WIRE will have seen—the Editor has requested us to keep it short, and so we will, even omitting our usual photograph! which incidentally for those regular readers of 1st Division notes, was not *our* deliberate mistake in line five of the August-September issue! (Hush! Hush!—Editor).

3rd. Division Signal Regiment Bulford Camp

AT the end of July the C.O. said "let's have some leave." The great day arrived, and the Regiment scattered to the four corners of the British Isles until the 17th August. Apart from a few left to guard Carter Barracks (no one knows exactly what they did) the Regiment ceased to function—or so we thought. Men still went on KAPEs some were at the Royal Tournament; **Lieutenant Keith Danby** was on an 'au pair' visit to the German Army (see separate article) and **Major Denis Watson,** O.C. 2 Squadron, was cracking on with plans for a camp in Jurby, Isle of Man.

Exercise 'Youthful Adventure'

The Adjutant, **Captain Mike Thorne, S.S.M. John Blank, Sergeants Dixon** and **Bolton-Lear** and **Private Lyons,** R.P.C., and their wives organised and ran a camp for 50 youngsters down in the New Forest. From remarks gathered from mums and dads, it appears to have been a huge success. **Captain Thorne,** when asked if he would run a similar camp in 1971, gave a feeble grin and began looking for a pen to apply for posting.

There was everything from 'baling-out' after rain to a ferry trip to the Isle of Wight, and lots of happy sing-songs with literally hundreds of 'bangers' round the evening camp fires. Our thanks go to all who assisted in this venture.

Royal Tournament — Behind the scenes at Earls Court

Brawn, brains and diplomacy were just a few of the qualities required by members of this Regiment when representing the Corps at the 80th Year of the Royal Tournament.

Three members of this unit, led by **Sergeant Bob Fortune,** carried out the duties, under the name of ushers, for the period 7th July to 5th August. These duties consisted of unloading and assembling accommodation stores for 1,300 men, which worked up quite a thirst by the end of each long day.

Once the tournament commenced, the manual labour, which was performed mainly by **Signalman Julius Munroe,** came to an end and the mental ability of **Corporal Bob Eaton-Evans** was called for in trying to find seats for over a thousand people when only nine hundred places were available. The unfortunate ones left standing then found themselves face to face with diplomat **Sergeant Fortune,** who had the thankless task of explaining to the V.I.P.s that just because their tickets said they were entitled to a particular seat, they could not sit there, because it was already occupied. This situation arose because the agency persisted in double booking. However, once the show started, everyone squeezed in happily and finally went away with a good impression of the Corps after seeing the professional displays of our Corps Band and Motor Cycle Display Team.

Jurby, Isle of Man — 2 Squadron summer camp

As the departure day for 2 Squadron's summer camp came nearer, 'Alpha' Troop's garage took on the appearance of a sports shop! Canoes, sails, oars, outboard engine, football strip, bows and arrows, etc. Trying to keep the garage still looking operational, as indeed it was, as exercises and assistance to other arms on communications exercises still had priority over all else, was a job in itself.

The main party of some 100 men left by train and truck early on the Sunday morning. The road party, under the watchful eye of **Sergeant Goodman,** departed at mid-day on Sunday for Liverpool docks. On arrival at Princes Pier (memories of troopships) it was discovered that due to an error on the ferry tickets we were a day late for our ferry and had to spend 24 hours in Liverpool. Then difficulties in finding an MOD unit which could garage the vehicles and accommodate the men. We recommend the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant to anyone!

The road party duly arrived at Jurby, Isle of Man, to be greeted by the O.C., **Major Denis Watson** with "You're late and where are my civvies!"

The camp was a great success, much of it due to the untiring efforts of **Captain Peter Pritchard** in preparing all the groundwork and co-ordinating the various departments involved, particularly on the travel side.

Basically, the camp was run on Company lines, with four Platoons, each headed by a Platoon Officer and Sergeant. Much training was carried out—abseiling, under the watchful eye of **Lieutenant Marten Clarke;** Infantry training, supervised by **Lieutenant Oddie** and **Lieutenant Danby.** The day commenced with reveille at 06.30, PT parade at 07.00, followed by a mile run to the beach for a dip in the delightfully refreshing water—there's nothing like ice to clear a thick head! Then the mile run back to camp, a quick shower and then breakfast. Military training finished at 12.30, and after lunch there was a vast choice of recreational activities, so no man need say he didn't know what to do.

A great deal was taught and much was learnt of one's fellow men in an environment different to the usual Division in barracks and exercise life.

While the camp was running we had a C15 link with part of the Troop on a KAPE at Leicester and a base station at Bulford. This worked exceedingly well, and when **Sergeant Goodman's** promotion to Staff Sergeant came through, all other Mess members at camp were delighted, as it meant the usual ritual of wetting the crown.

The camp was rounded off with a night infantry exercise in the mountains, and the spirit with which the average Signalman entered into it had to be seen to be believed. Who won between the two opposing forces still has to be decided, but 'Generalissimo Yosef Masseyo came very near to capture. The exercise was slightly prolonged, as at the final roll call, one **Signalman Julius Munroe** was absent. Having become separated from his section, he did the wisest thing, got his head down, knowing that to move around on his own in the mountains could end in disaster. Many of the officers spent a sleepless night searching, but as Munroe is the same colour as the night, they had no success. He was found at dawn by a helicopter borrowed from a R.A.O.C. unit on exercise at the same time.

A good camp, in fact many older hands were heard to remark "the best I've ever been to in 16 years." Again thanks are due to **Captain Pritchard** who, unfortunately, is leaving us for Cyprus. He will indeed be missed by many.

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Anglo-German Fete

OUR annual fete promised to be bigger and better than ever before. During the days before the event the sun shone and preparations were well ahead of schedule. The mown rugger pitch and a very orderly array of stalls set the scene for a bumper fete.

The morning of the event was a dismal scene but it did not deter the enthusiasm in putting finishing touches to stalls. Everyone was optimistic. "The high winds will blow the rain away," was a well-worn cry! Regrettably the 'criers' were wrong.

A rain-free period permitted **Miss Sandi Jones** (from B.F.B.S.) and **Herr Dr. Schober** (the Oberburgemeister of Herford) to open the proceedings without getting wet and then mackintoshes and umbrellas were at a premium.

The organisers were depressed but hardy supporters turned up to have their money cadjoled from them by the very professional and persuasive stall attendants. As usual the word 'go' meant an invasion for the Wives' Club grocery stall which, this year, was most elaborate and known as the 'mini-supermarket,' crowd control barriers being a part of the new construction.

The children's activities seemed to be as well supported as ever and 'space-hopper' racing proved a worthwhile introduction to kiddies' corner. New stalls and old were all successful and a feature of the fete was the enthusiasm and cheerfulness of the stallholders. Through them, and in spite of the weather, the final profits amounted to D.M. 5,500. What a bumper sum would have been 'in the kitty' had the weather been kind? Nevertheless, British and German charities benefited and we wish to thank everyone who helped make the afternoon such a success.

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Sailing

A new event—a 24-hour dinghy race at the Mohne See! **Second-Lieutenant Bushell** writes:

"As the day drew closer the faces of the helmsmen and crews drew longer and longer. A 24-hour race in dinghies surely is something akin to 'mad dogs and Englishmen out in the midday sun.' Six intrepid Englishmen from 4th Division Signal Regiment agreed to take part in this novel Mohne See race. The preparations included collecting such things as waterproof torches, vacuum flasks, brandy, plastic bags for snacks and the like. The party moved down to the Mohne See on a Saturday morning, to prepare the boat and themselves for the start, at 14.00 hours. On arrival at the club **Signalmen Birnie** and **Benson** set up our admin. area.

The remainder of the team set to work on the boat. She was dragged out of the water and keeled over, and scrubbed with Vim and hard brushes. Once she was clean she was carefully lowered into the water and moored. **Major Hartnett** proceeded to rig her using his knowledge to see that the sails and rigging were correctly adjusted. We were then ready for the start.

Our light-weight crew was selected to go first and a crew change every three laps was the rule. **Lieutenant Stuart,** crewed by **Signalman Barlow,** crossed the line at the scheduled 14.02 hours. The wind was light-force 2. This was enough to keep the boat moving, but even so it took about an hour to complete a lap. **Lieutenant Stuart** very creditably held on to his place whilst trying to teach **Signalman Barlow** the ropes of crewing. At the end of his three laps we made our first crew change. **Second-Lieutenant Bushell** and **Lance-Corporal Lowe** took over the boat and were very swiftly propelled towards the first mark. These two tried to demoralise the other crews by supping hot coffee laced with brandy every time they overhauled a boat. These tactics seemed to be working very well until after rounding the last mark, a slight error in judgement lost us the lead gained on some other boats.

At about 20.00 hours the last pair took over. It was just under eight hours later that **Majors Hartnett** and **Hunt** stepped on dry land again after a night's drift. **Major Hartnett** was the mainstay of our team, and due to him we were one of the four boats to break away a lap ahead of the remainder. The problem then remained to obtain a place. Third place swopped between ourselves and the Canadian Brigade team virtually every lap. At the final gun **Lieutenant Stuart** held on to third place, beating the Canadians by some 14 minutes, but being beaten by RAF Gutersloh and a R.E.M.E. (B.A.O.R.) team.

At the prizegiving a very tired but happy team went up to receive a well-earned tankard suitably inscribed. The whole race had been most enjoyable, but we do hope it is 12 months hence before the next of its kind!"

Infantry training

Some months ago **Lieutenant-Colonel Stonham** agreed to a suggestion that some of our soldiers should be attached to the Second Royal Green Jackets for battle group training in Larsac (South of France).

Throughout August **Second-Lieutenant Ian Bingham** and 13 soldiers became infantrymen. The training included conventional mounted and dismounted infantry tactics, I.S. and C.I. practice plus, on the lighter side, local visits, some of which ended on the Riviera beaches.

Signalman Nick Gray volunteered to enter one of the Battalion's annual competitions—a tough and strenuous test—and he came through with flying colours and suggestions that he should transfer!

During the final exercise the riflemen were given rapid promotion and **Signalman 'Chuck' Walker** found himself a Platoon Sergeant and later a Section Corporal which, we are told, was planned and not as a result of his inefficiency!

An interesting month, a strenuous month, an enjoyable month, but there were no volunteers from our party to transfer —they prefer communicating! It was kind of the Green Jackets to agree to the attachment and let our soldiers see how 'the other half live.'

Presentation

Our C.R.E., **Colonel O'Callagan,** recently presented the Commanding Officer with a unique plaque depicting the close ties between the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals. The whole work has been expertly carried out by Sapper craftsmen and is now a very attractive addition to the decor of the C.O.'s office.

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

Motor Cycling

THE motor cycling season is now starting and the Regiment is entering two teams for the Army championships to be held at Borden on 12th/13th September. We welcome **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Vaughan Rayner, Sergeant Vic Jincks** and **Signalman 'Jock' Hampton,** who are new to the team this year. Unfortunately **Signalman 'Scouse' Weeks** cannot compete as he is expecting an addition to his family. This will be the last appearance of **Staff Sergeant Herb Atherley** who is returning to the U.K. in October. Good luck, **'Uncle' Herb,** from the rest of the team. The Regiment entered a team for the Berlin Infantry Brigade trials in August and **Lance-Corporal Mike Corrigan** did well to get the second individual novice prize. The team was placed fourth out of about 26 teams.

The only other entry in the motor cycling calendar is the B.A.O.R. championships which will be held in Bielefeld on 15th/16th October.

Sailing

The 1970 season has been a very good one for the Regimental sailors. We started way back in May with a Regimental regatta which was won by 2 Squadron. **'Mitch' Mitchell** was overall victor and **John Whittaker,** who had only just learnt to sail, won the novice class. Our Regimental team, comprising **Bill Kitchen, 'Russ' Parrotte** and **'Mitch'** won the Royal Signals regatta and, with the addition of **Major Chris Story,** are still in the running for the B.A.O.R. Championship. **Bill Kitchen** also won the 4th Div. Keelboat trophy at Kiel. But enough of racing and winning; our true success this year is that we have sent people on four Kiel courses, we have sent two crews out on *Petasus* and we have qualified some 25 new 'C' helms on dinghy courses. Sailing in the Army is not a rich man's sport and we are delighted to see so many people taking it up.

Cricket

The Regimental cricket season ended with the team touring Berlin for ten days. Four matches were played, one of which was lost. This match, against the Olympic Stadium eleven, was lost by three runs. **Corporal Lennie Carr** retired hurt as he hooked a ball, missed it, and lost six teeth as a result. The team 'end of season get-together' was held during the tour in the Munchener Lowenbrau house. By all accounts the season ended on a 'high' note.

Sub Aqua

The sunny morning of Saturday, 27th June, saw the Sub Seven Aqua Club leaving camp on its 1,500 km. journey to La Cote Gauche in the Catalan area of the South of France, near to the Mediterranean end of the Pyrenees. Two days' hard driving later and a journey not without its memorable moments, the team of 12 divers, under Dive Marshal **Lieutenant Peter Bowles,** pitched camp between Collioure and Argeles-Sur-Mer. Looking after their transport were the able hands of **Lance-Corporal Dave Harrison,** R.E.M.E., whose expertise was increasingly valuable during the three-week stay.

Diving sites were changed regularly and a great variety of underwater conditions were discovered giving valuable experience to new and old divers alike. Training of new members in such clear and inviting water was made easy and it was with regrets that the homeward journey was commenced, everyone a little fitter, browner, more fluent in French and safer sub aqua men.

KAPE, 1970

The KAPE tour mentioned in our notes last month as a forthcoming attraction has now been completed. The team arrived in Bradford with two C42/C11 Land Rover detachments and one D11 K9 detachment of 22nd Signal Regiment. Unfortunately a second Austin K9 retired hurt in Dover. Thanks to the nursing and mollycoddling of **Lance-Corporal Ian Dommett** and **Signalman Chris Illingworth** the remaining K9, nicknamed Boris, never let us down.

The team arrived just in time to set up for the opening of Bradford Army Week, where they were to spend the first six days of the tour. The public were soon attracted by the camouflage nets and matt painted vehicles. The team had a full-time job, as **Signalman 'Moggy' McLean** would say, "Mouthing to the public." Meanwhile **Signalman 'Ginge' Tate** took every opportunity to make sure that the patrons at the Spotted House, the local pub, knew what the Army was all about.

From Bradford Army Week the team went to Pudsey Show which was one of the highlights of the tour, crowds flocked in and gave the team a full-time job for the whole day.

The last ten days of the tour were spent in Sheffield where the team spent most of their time visiting youth clubs and A.C.F.s. One day was spent at Dronfield Gala which, like Pudsey Show, was a great success.

After a long, tiresome journey the team finally arrived back in Germany on 25th July, grateful to be back after the journey, but sorry to have finished an enjoyable and eventful three weeks.

8th Signal Regiment, Catterick Camp

Summer Soccer League

THIS year's final of the District Summer League is due to be played on 16th September.

The two contesting teams are 1 and 2 Squadrons in the Regiment—a repeat pairing of last year's finalists.

Each Squadron has had a full fixture list of 18 matches, 1 Squadron having remained unbeaten and 2 Squadron lost a single match. Both very commendable performances.

Headquarters Squadron participated in the same league; it is to their credit (and no doubt the surprise of not a few) that their team has achieved four wins and two draws.

Orienteering

Throughout the year members of the Regimental Orienteering Club have been training in the events organised by civilian clubs.

The 'season' of military competitions began on 1st August with the Regimental event. This was a true masochists' course set by **S.I. Webb** (our A.P.T.C. Sergeant). It was won by **Major M. W. Simms-Reeve,** closely followed by **Corporal L. J. Edwards.** The cup went to the 2 Squadron team led by **Captain J. F. Storr.**

The next event was the Training Brigade competition on 12th August in which we entered four teams. This was a good deal shorter than our own course and we took the Cup and nine out of the 10 places. The winner was **Lance-Corporal P. Lee, S.I. Webb** was second and **Lance-Coporal C. Herbert** third. The winning team was **Captain Storr, Lance-Corporal Webb, Lance-Corporal Herbert** and **Signalman Boorman.**

The Northern Command competition was held on 5th September in Dalby Forest near Scarborough. Once again our Regimental team was victorious. In addition to winning the competition they were the first team in Northern and Western Commands and from Scotland.

The winning team members were: **Captain Storr, Lance-Corporal Lee, Lance-Corporal Webb, Lance-Corporal Herbert, S.I. Webb** and **Corporal Edwards.** The first four counted. A number of others had creditable times which did not count towards the team results, particularly **Signalman Higgins** who was the second member of the Regiment to finish. **Captain Storr** had the distinction of being runner-up; he was, in fact, the fastest member of Northern Command.

The last stage is to be the Army event which will be held in the New Forest on 26th October.

There is no doubt that the standard of competition will be particularly high in this event. Last year the Regiment finished third, and every effort is being made to ensure an improvement on this performance.

Remember, Remember, the 10th November

All contributions from Units must be in the Editor's hands by the 10th November latest.

We ask units to—let us have their contributions as early as possible — it will greatly assist us.

PROUD OF THEMSELVES—I SQUADRON, 9th SIGNAL REGIMENT

Winners of Cyprus Minor units football, basketball and team athletics to say nothing of several shooting successes

Back row, left to right: Corporal Bob Mills, Corporal Trev Ryan, Private George Hewitt, Lance-Corporal Bob Watkins and Private George Anderson

Fourth row, left to right: Corporal Pete Ellis, Corporal Ginge Jerram, Lance-Corporal Mick Bragger, Private Paddy Keogh, Corporal Jeff Davison and Davey Manders

Third row, left to right: Sergeant Lindsay Smith, Lance-Corporal Tony Morris and Staff-Sergeant Bob Wherry

Second row, left to right: Corporal Mick Lewis, Corporal Chris Stone, Corporal Steve Watson, Signalman John Phillips, Corporal Tony Lowe, Sergeant Bill Duncan, Signalman Herbie Poll, Corporal John Robertson, Sergeant Mick Tighe and Signalman George Poulter

Front row, left to right: Sergeant John Morgan, Staff-Sergeant Geordie Sleightholm, W.O.II Harry Champion, Captain Hugh Bonaker, Major John Williams, Captain Dick Whittington, W.O.II Glyn Morris, W.O.II Jim Aitken and Sergeant Bob Hope

9th Signal Regiment (Radio)
B.F.P.O. 53

Sub Aqua Club

THE Sub Aqua Club held its summer camp at Whitechapel Bay during July/August. One of their more noteworthy occurrences was summed up by a member who commented on return, "We ran out of beer." Other members of the club, however, assure us that diving did take place, during which **Lance-Corporal John Bird** was observed doing a very fast Australian crawl. He was half-way up the beach when he was informed that it does take an expert to differentiate between sharks and dolphins.

Sergeant Bob Mills remembers this camp well. Whilst carrying various items of equipment (including oxygen tanks) he trod on a rock and broke one of his toes. We all have those days when things go wrong—the equipment, being rather fragile, could not be dropped, and performing an amazing balancing act he attempted to clutch the damaged digit. Unfortunately another large rock was nearby and we will leave it to the reader to guess what happened to the large toe of his other foot. Of course we will make no mention of the gate which he later demolished with a three-tonner.

Our Padre, **Reverend Jim Cross,** informs us that divine assistance was not called for when **R.S. Fred Birchenough** (one of our nautical persons) drank a can of beer, under water, through his snorkel. He is, however, claiming a world record.

Swimming and cricket

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations, 2 Squadron entered a team for the swimming gala held at Dhekelia. They made a clean sweep of all the swimming events. Bubbling over with confidence they went on to compete in the Army (Cyprus) Minor Units swimming championship. Unfortunately the opposition was extremely strong and they were well and truly put in their place by finishing in last place but one. The final ignomony was that 1 Squadron, who had not entered a team in the Dhekelia gala, was the only Royal Signals team on the island to win through to a place in the finals.

Consolation came for 2 Squadron in the form of the Army (Cyprus) Minor Units cricket championship. They won through to the semi-final, losing in what all agreed was a very fine match to the United Nations by five wickets.

Volleyball

It took a lot of pushing, but finally **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Bud Abbott** has managed to make volleyball the 'in game' at Ay Nik. With a total of 14 teams competing (including two ladies' teams), competition is hotting up, but S.H.Q. 1 Squadron, captained by **Corporal Tony Lowe,** appear to be showing a clean pair of heels at the top of the league table to the opposition.

Tailpieces

Have we a practical joker in the Regiment. Seen on Part One Orders recently, "Will the owner of a top set of dentures please collect from . . . ", followed a few days later by, "The owner of a ladies' pink frilly nightdress found in the cinema can collect from . . . " The pink frilly is still in the 'Not yet claimed box.'

Final comment on 'Pear Shapes.' A large parcel was received which, on being opened, was found to contain, in addition to a couple of Jerseys Wool Heavy, no less than 62 Foundation Garments. **R.Q.M.S. Dave Shakespeare** was heard mumbling over a pint that this was taking . . . pear shapes just a bit too far.

10th Signal Regiment
Hounslow

THE Regimental Sailing Club spent a most enjoyable afternoon racing against 14th Signal Regiment and a local youth club team on 8th July. The team comprised of the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Valerie Batchelor, W.O.II (Y. of S.) Derek Bassett, Corporal David Clarke, Lance-Corporal Charles Child** and **Driver Terance McCabe.** After a friendly afternoon's sailing, we came last. One felt that had the Commanding Officer not hit so many other boats and his crew been less heavy with water—as a result of a mischance—we could have done better; though never beaten anyone.

We are delighted our R.S.M. is leaving us—'delighted' because he is going on commissioning! The Thoms have devoted themselves to the Regiment for the past 2½ years. It was a fitting tribute to the span of **W.O.I Thom's** interests that the Hounslow Borough Safe Driving Committee should present him with a handsome pewter tankard and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Club with an officer's sword. To (now) **Lieutenant** and **Mrs. Thom** and their family we extend our grateful thanks and good wishes.

And in their place we are delighted to welcome **W.O.I Postlethwaite** and his wife and family.

It was incredible with what alacrity two DII crews, crewed by **Sergeant Phillips, Lance-Corporal McGregor, Lance-Corporal Robson, Lance-Corporal Doane;** Aldershot, **Corporal Hadden, Signalman Dalton, Signalman Cooke,** managed to vacate barracks the day before the Fitness for Role inspection on 21st July. Never was a dock strike more welcome. However, it was not a case of rats leaving the sinking ship, because we are still afloat and in reasonably full sail.

Sub Aqua

The Regiment has entered enthusiastically in the London District Sub Aqua Club. We suffer from lack of experience, but **Corporal John Smith** and **Signalman Thomas McGratton,** ably aided by some of our W.R.A.C., are rapidly putting matters to rights.

Soccer

As holders of the London District Premier Division Cup and the Hounslow Civilian Weekend League Cup, our football team is looking forward in eager anticipation to the forthcoming season, during which we are hoping to do better than runners-up in the Minor Units Cup, and we have also entered the Major Units Cup—so, Guards Battalions—watch it!

We mean to show them a thing or two this season say 10th Signal Regiment's soccer team. And to show their confidence they have entered for the Major Units Cup after being runners up last season in the Minor Units competition

Front row, left to right: Signalman Roberts, Sergeant McKechnie, Lieutenant Colonel D. M. F. Baker, Sergeant Jobes, Signalman Reeder, Signalman Watkinson

Back row: Captain N. C. Muir, Lance-Corporal Robson, Sergeant Wright (R.A.P.C.), Corporal Berry, Lance-Corporal Bluer, Corporal Franks

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11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parades

THE Regiment held two pass-off parades in the month of August, the first being on Friday 7th. Seventy-two members of No. 1 Troop and Continuation Training Troop were inspected by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.**

The best recruit was **Signalman Agar,** a trainee manager in a supermarket before enlisting. He is now training as a radio operator.

The second pass-off parade was held on 21st August when No. 6 Troop paraded before **Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Le Messurier,** the A.A. & Q.M.G. from Northumbrian District. There were 20 recruits on parade under their Troop Commander, **Lieutenant P. G. T. Morgan,** and the best recruit was **Signalman Carter,** an ex-laboratory technician; he is now with 24th Signal Regiment training to be a radio operator.

We wish all the recruits the best of luck in their future Army careers.

Arrivals and departures

A warm welcome is made to **Captain Mike Carson,** who is now occupying the Adjutantal 'hot seat' vacated by **Captain Richard Gravestock** on his posting to Warminster. May we also welcome **Staff Sergeant Atkins,** now in Instructional Wing.

Sad farewells were said to **Staff Sergeant George Davis** (M.T.) and **Sergeant Jimmy Hewston** (Corps Band), both of whom came to the end of their Army career and left for 'civvy street.'

Orienteering

The Regiment took part in the Training Brigade Orienteering competition deep in the Stang Forest of North Yorkshire on 12st August.

Fielding a relatively inexperienced team consisting of **Lieutenants Kemp** and **Howard, Sergeant Davidson, Lance-Corporals Kirkham** and **Rogers** and (under protest) **Signalman Wadey** from O.R. 1 Troop, the Regiment came a creditable third to the experienced runners of 8th Signal Regiment's first and second.

Marriage

We wish every happiness to **Lance-Corporal Hamilton,** of 7 Troop, and his new bride.

Leave

On 24th August the Regiment tried an experiment and stood down on block leave to give the Cadre a well-deserved rest (did I hear boos?).

Now, however, all is back to normal, with the normal well-trained recruits being turned out every few weeks.

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

The Whirlygig

THE summer months have seen a major change-over of the officers in the Regiment. The departure list is impressive and larger than that of the arrivals. However, we haven't noticed any change in the work load! No doubt the newcomers will quickly make their presence felt. **Major Len Rogers,** lately Second-in-Command, has handed over his duties to **Major Dickie Nice** and departed to Canada. (How does one get these postings?). **Major (T.O.T.) Don Chetwynd** has decided, at long last, to have his first tour in Catterick, and has left the responsibilities of TM Troop with **Captain Jim Jenkins. Captain Alf Reed,** after giving **Major Tom Swan** the run-down on HQ Squadron and PRI, has departed to assume the duties of Quartermaster in Cyprus. **Captain John Alexander** has been relieved by **Captain Phil Hodges** as Admin Officer, 1 Squadron, and is due to give 224 Signal Squadron, at Loughborough, the benefit of his vast experience in shooting, rugby and Officers' Mess Secretary, to mention but a few of his notable accomplishments.

Captain Don Overton arrived to relieve **Captain Phil Hodges** and is now finding his way round the complexities of the Technical Adjutant appointment. **Captain Gerry Purvis,** Intelligence Corps, shortly goes back to U.K. and is busy handing over to **Captain John Davidson,** Intelligence Corps. **Mr. John Snell,** our Civilian Liaison Officer, has returned to the U.K. We hope he will be able to arrange some flying visits to us in the near future. **Mr. Jock Smith** has also departed, but the arrival of **Mr. Colin Holman** helps to restore the balance.

Lieutenant Tim Mountford elected to try his hand with 18th Regiment in Singapore, and **Lieutenant Craig Treeby** is busily assimulating knowledge at the School of Signals prior to a posting to Bahrein. With all these officer changes, we are pleased to report that the Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s have remained fairly constant. **W.O.II Ted Brant** has handed over S.S.M. 1 Squadron to **W.O.II Dennis Connell,** lately arrived from R.M.A., Sandhurst, and has been appointed R.Q.M.S. to fill our second R.Q.M.S. post.

W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) Alan Smith has taken over the post of Chief Clerk, which had been ably filled by **Sergeant Nobby Clark,** since the departure of our last Chief Clerk some nine months ago.

Anglo-Dutch Sports

On Wednesday, 12th August, a Dutch Army team from Roermond played the Regiment at basketball, volleyball and badminton. The Dutch team was led by **Captain Eugene Savelkoul,** Officer-in-Charge of Physical Training, Southern Holland, who produced an exceedingly fit team. **S.I. Scales,** A.P.T.C., put in a lot of ground work so that the events were keenly contested. The Dutch Army won the volleyball, we won the basketball, and finally, the Dutch just won the badminton. We enjoyed the afternoon's sport and are looking forward to the return match in Roermond in September.

Treasure Hunt

On Sunday, 25th July, a car rally and treasure hunt was organised by 'C' Troop, 1 Squadron. Sixteen cars lined up on the Regimental Square awaiting the Le Mans type start to the rally section. All competitors got away to a 'flyer' and made the first checkpoint in good time. The marshals then started the fun by sending everybody off in the wrong direction to the next stage! However, the highly-efficient navigators surmounted this problem and arrived there within the time limit. Each competitor had been given a list of clues at the start, and the marshals had great fun watching them search for the hidden answers at the various stages. At the half-way mark, everybody stopped for a picnic lunch, with the exception of **W.O.II** and **Mrs. Norman Elliott,** who had disappeared without trace, although many of the competitors had reported sighting them at various points in the last stage.

Two more checkpoints after lunch, and everybody, including, strangely enough, **W.O.II** and **Mrs. Elliott,** arrived back at Mercury Barracks in good time. It was rumoured that **Major** and **Mrs. Maurice Maisey** had, at one time, been travelling along the Dusseldorf autobahn—at least 30 miles off course! Back in barracks, **Lance-Corporal Mick Hudson** and **Corporal David Stow** gave the instructions for the treasure hunt section. From there on, the barracks looked more like a scene from a Max Sennet comedy, with cars and people all rushing around at breakneck speed trying to find the treasure voucher; eventually **Corporal Chris Martin** made the lucky strike!

After the road scores had been totted up, the Volkswagen, driven by **Signalman John Pryer** and navigated by **Corporal 'Chippy' Wood** was named as the winning car of the rally section.

Mrs. Baldwin presented the prizes and finally **Lieutenant-Colonel Baldwin** thanked the organisers, **Lance-Corporal Mick Hudson, Corporal David Stow** and **Sergeant Bill Helme** for a most enjoyable day.

Cricket

We must be getting a name for cliff-hanging. After our nail-biting victory in the semi-final, we played an equally exciting Rhine Area Final against H.Q. B.A.O.R. on 26th August. A true captain's innings by **Sergeant Vernon Merrick,** and some mighty hits by **Corporal John Howells** and **Captain 'Mike' Thorne** pushed our score to 110. **Sergeant 'Mo' Emmott**

13th SIGNAL REGIMENT CRICKET TEAM

Standing left to right: Sergeant Emmott, Mr. Snell, Signalman Lister, Lance-Corporal Bagwell, Lieutenant Riley, Captain Thorne, Captain Seward, Signalman Sutton, W.O.II Kennington

Kneeling left to right: Lance-Corporal Slater, Lance-Corporal Neilson, Lance-Corporal Kirk, Sergeant Merrick (Captain), Corporal Howells

looked all set for a high score when a rising ball despatched him to the M.R.S. He returned later, complete with five stitches, to bowl well in the closing overs.

Some fearsome bowling by **Captain Mike Thorne, Lance-Corporal Mike Bagwell** and **Corporal John Howells,** and a fine display of fielding, kept H.Q. B.A.O.R. at bay, but they succeeded in scoring the winning run with only one over to go.

Canoeing

Our canoeists had a very successful outing on 22nd August, taking part in Long Distance Race No. 4 of the B.A.O.R. Canoe League. In Class III (single touring) **Corporal Roy Austin** and **Private Jock Johnson** came joint first, after a gruelling 4 hours 8 minutes, closely followed, only two minutes later, by **Private John Coulthard.** In Class IV (double touring), **Signalman Ken Sisson** and **Signalman Neil Mapp** succeeded in finishing third against very strong opposition.

Sergeants' Mess

Camping Europa (International Guide to Camping) seems to have been the book of the month for August. With heavily-laden cars, members and their families have been dashing off in all directions, seeking a place in the sun. Here in Birgelen, we are ideally situated. In one direction, France is four or five hours away (depending on the driver) taking in Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg en route. If you are really enjoying the drive, you could finish up (seat and family in agreement) in Portugal or Spain. In the other direction, head south on the autobahn, and you could find yourself in the Black Forest, Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland; and if you do not get carried away by the scenery, Italy is not impossible, as some of our members have found. Looking to the north, the colder climes of Denmark, Norway and Sweden have been chosen by some.

August has also seen a change-over of the Canadian members. Our President, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Eric Filder** presented a memento of their stay to **M.W.O. Frank Martin, W.O. Wally Turlock, W.O. Bill Rogers, Sergeant Bill Rogers** and **Sergeant Louis Charron.**

We welcome in their place **Sergeant Earl Brydon, Sergeant Harry Coyle** and **Sergeant Andy Forrest** (who is no stranger to us), and wish them and their families a happy stay here.

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals: **Major T. B. Swan, Captain J. D. Davidson, Captain R. E. Jenkins, W.O.II (S.S.M.) D. Connell, W.O.II (F. of S.) G. Geldard, W.O.II (O.R.Q.M.S.) A. Smith, Sergeant A. G. Cox** (Intelligence Corps), **Sergeant A. F. Huet, Sergeant A. McCrea.**

Departures: **Major D. J. Chetwynd, Captain A. A. J. Reed, Captain H. A. J. Alexander, Captain A. G. Purvis** (Intelligence Corps), **Mr. J. Snell, Mr. J. J. Smith, Lieutenant C. R. Treeby W.O.II (F. of S.) R. K. Owen, Staff Sergeant M. J. Sheridan, Sergeant R. Bulley, Sergeant A. M. Watson.**

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

THE summer months have been very active ones for the Regiment. We have been more than involved in the two major exercises of the summer — 'Summer Sales' and 'Barn Dance.'

Exercise 'Summer Sales'

This 'Hollywood extravaganza' wasted some of the best of the year's weather. The city of tents and the hoards of extras (staff officers) did tend to give the illusion of a crazy film company on location. The collection of bizarre uniforms, vehicles and equipment were indeed impressive, as were the jungles of aerials and cable routes. What all the scurrying figures in various degrees of deshabilles were actually finding to do amongst the shambles of guy ropes and telephone cables will remain a perpetual mystery.

Exercise 'Barn Dance'

The static elements of the Regiment were exercised by moving them into the field to work a proportion of the Krefeld circuits through a field TRC. **Major Armstrong's** choice of a location was a happy one, being as it was on the shores of the Mohne See. 79 Railway Transport Squadron provided ten coaches of ambulance train stock to accommodate all the exercise personnel.

Adventure Training

Two exercises at Troop level, 'Greenball II' and 'Allgau Hop' were run during the summer. Exercise 'Lung Fish' was the debut of the Regimental Aqua Lung Club, and this three-week exercise was designed to train novice divers to a sufficiently high standard to take part in a more ambitious exercise next year. Perhaps somewhere warmer?

Visit to Stadt Krefeld

On 19th August, a party of Officers and Warrant Officers were personally conducted on a tour of the City of Krefeld and Uerdingen by the Oberburgermeister of Krefeld, **Herr Horst Jobges.** The visit started with a tour of the Rhenania Brewery, and ample opportunity was given to test the strength of their brew. A visit to the ice stadium and the Bochum Pool was included in the itinerary, which concluded with a slap-up meal at the Casino Uerdingen. After the meal, **Captain Heather Greenland** covered herself in glory in the skittle alley, by being the focus of all attention and the bashful recipient of most of the prizes.

Spotlight on Corps Personalities

We hope to introduce, by way of an innovation to THE WIRE a profile of Regimental characters. It is intended to be humorous, and it is hoped that the victims will be flattered rather than mortified. It is also our hope that other Regiments will take the lead and similarly amuse us with character profiles of some of their types. Our victim this time is **Captain 'Stan' Cox.** A well-deserving one, as he is both a veteran and a 'type.'

Captain S. W. P. Cox, Royal Signals—Portrait of a character

Early days—a heap of bodies

Joined 6th Bn. The Royal Norfolk Regiment, T.A., in mid-1939. Originally he had a bicycle, W.D. pattern, large, green and heavy, with back-pedal brake and clips for Lee-Enfield rifle; there was a drill for mounting the bicycles, which was practised on the parade ground. The main trouble was that many men could not ride the bikes and many did not know how to work the back-pedal brakes (even if they worked). The

"STAN" COX

result: one moment the O.C. or Company Commander roaring down the quiet country lane with his wheeled men following, the next, a heap of bikes and bodies at a road junction or at the bottom of a hill.

Embodied

He was embodied in September, 1939, posted 20 miles from home to keep guard at R.A.F. station, Watton, Norfolk (with a pick helve!). He recalls well, 3rd September, 1939—**Corporal Cox,** having completed a two-hour patrol round the hangars, was 'kipping' in guard room; R.A.F. Officer burst into guard room, his *exact* words were, "Gentlemen we are at war with Germany." Posted to Depot, Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich. One day on guard mounting the orderly officer shouted "take post" . . . Cox and guard commander not having a clue, marched straight off the square.

Shot out two windows of C.O.'s house

Britannia Barracks were located on a hill outside Norwich and was in direct route of Nazi bombers and Baedeker raids. **Corporal Cox,** on A.A. duty with L.M.G. on mounting, fires at Heinkel bomber in daylight. Never having fired LMG before, he shot two windows out of the C.O.'s house. The Heinkel escaped!

He was then posted to London to form the nucleus of transit camp in Norway; Norway capitulates, posted to 70th Bn. Royal Norfolk Regiment (young soldiers Bn.)—guarding R.A.F. station again!

Whilst there a C.S.M. known as 'Bimbo' went to sleep in his bunk with lights on (inflicted self punishment). He handed his electric light bulb into the guardroom at 'lights out' every night for a week.

Promoted Sergeant at Barmouth, Wales; commissioned July, 1942, to 8th Bn. Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Newly commissioned and a grenade incident

First week as Second-Lieutenant issued with box of live 36 grenades and told by company commander to practice platoon in live grenade throwing among the sand dunes (Blakeny, Norfolk). **Cox** instructed a Corporal to prepare grenades and send each man up to him with live grenade ready for throwing. First three grenades thrown correctly. Thrower and Officer i/c (**Cox!**) duck down behind sand dune and wait for explosion!

Fourth grenade did not explode, wait and count, wait and count again. **Cox** walks towards grenade, sun shining brightly —when a few yards from grenade a faint crack was heard, .22 cap exploding (**Cox** not deaf in those days!). Several terrific leaps and then to ground, base plug whizzes overhead. Had a few words with Corporal preparing grenades, discovered he had not removed thick grease which had held plunger after pin had been withdrawn and grenade thrown. Sun had melted grease, allowing plunger to be released and fire detonator and explode grenade!

Off to Africa and a bullet through the cabin wall

As too many Officers in 8th Bn. Royal Norfolks, last joined posted to 5th Bn. Northamptonshire Regiment in 78 Division —located at Stirling, Scotland. **Cox** then joined largest convoy ever to North Africa, 1942. A Major in next cabin cleaning .45 revolver accidently presses trigger—bullet passes through dividing wall within a foot of **Cox's** head (reclining on bunk in next door cabin).

Landed from assault boat on shore of North Africa, 8th November, 1942, made way eventually from beach in complete darkness to main road, route Nationale Numero II, capturing three Arabs en route—they were terrified and as they were also an embarrassment took bolts from their rifles and told them to 'beat it.'

Took up position in ditch beside road as a vehicle was coming. Stopped vehicle which was a dilapidated taxi being run on alcohol. Filled taxi with platoon, also roof, and sailed into Zeralda in broad daylight.

General withdrawal—**Cox** and Platoon Sergeant cut off in mountain. Hidden by Arab in hut, remembers Arab's wife in corner of hut treading dough with her feet, resulting bread very tasty. After many adventures finally rejoined Battalion three days later.

Wounded—and trouble with stretcher

Whilst advancing in extended order over flat approaches to Dejeida when in the open, Jerrys open up with everything, Company Command in front disappears forever—all to ground —**Cox** feels terrific bang on back, loses consciousness. On regaining consciousness no movement, finds he can move his legs, struggles out of greatcoat, bullet hole in water pottle, haversack in shreds, no feeling in left arm, crawls towards wood. British soldier from behind tree raises rifle, **Cox** shouts. Sent to first aid post, evacuated by canvas-sided ambulance, to C.R.S. at Quelma, **Cox's** stretcher crosswise in ambulance, ambulance caught in gateway of C.R.S. (formerly a school), ambulance could not move until a saw had been found and handles of stretcher cut off.

Hospital at Constantine first casualties—later the Americans are visited by a General and given the Purple Heart (some only had malaria!).

Fired on own convoy

Cox had bullet through left arm and shrapnel in back (13 pieces still there, excused compass work?), six months in hospital. Medically downgraded — became instructor in 6lb. anti-tank gun at Infantry Base Depot, Algiers, and fired on own convoy by accident. Then he served with: Infantry Reinforcement Training Depot, Cape Malifawn (Algeria), Phillipsville, 26 Assembly Centre, Milan, Messing Officer a transit camp, then manager at Hotel Excelsior (Milan), Hotel Buglione (Bologna), Hotel Regina (Padova), Hotel Palazzo (Cristallo), Winter Sports Centre (Cortina), Camp Commandant (H.Q. Nigeria District), Security Officer (Trieste), 'E' Command Ordnance Depot (Ashford, Kent), 14th Infantry Workshops, R.E.M.E. (Ashford), 7 Driver Training Bn., R.E.M.E., Adjutant (Barton Stacey), 3 Telecons Training Bn. (Arborfield), 55 Garrison Workshop, R.E.M.E., Adjutant (Gibraltar), 8th Infantry (Airportable Workshop), R.E.M.E., Admin. Officer (Colchester), 259 Signal Squadron (Comcen) (Cyprus), and finally 16th Signal Regiment (Krefeld), where he can be described as the business man of the Regiment.

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18th Signal Regiment

c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Visit of Officer-in-Charge Royal Signals Records

ON 3rd August **Colonel C. B. Masser** visited the Regiment to receive a briefing and then commit himself to all sorts of manning promises, all of which we are glad to say he was able to keep.

After 'shop' the **Colonel** was given the opportunity to relax with junior members of the Regiment in the Princess Mary Club.

Whilst the men drank, launched their darts and played billiards, the wives were also matched at indoor games playing skittles, table football and carpet bowls.

The champions were **Ann** and **Thelma,** wives of **Corporal Roy Henderson** and **Corporal Dennis Barnet** respectively. The organisers, to whom all letters of complaint should be sent, were **W.O.II Gordon Wallace, W.O.II 'Taff' Gundersen** and **Sergeant Mick Weston.**

Sport and Social

We have recently enjoyed a good deal of 'liaison visiting' between ourselves and 19th Signal Regiment over at Changi —rather more for pleasure than business.

The first occasion on Friday, 7th August, was for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess 50th Anniversary Ball at which a splendid evening's entertainment was provided for vast numbers. Equally memorable was the cricket match played to the alcoholic rules!

We do not wish to steal anybody else's thunder but quite who won the cricket is not known. Hard luck with the timing of the collapse of our spectator stand—it missed us all!

I.S. Exercise

The Regiment, less elements of 249 Singal Squadron, was exercised on its I.S. drills during Wednesday, 5th August. The exercise took place in two phases, one in daylight and one at night. The first phase was started by the Adjutant, **Captain Ray Windmill,** who dashed off to his air-conditioned operations room before becoming tangled in all the reels of barbed wire which sprang up around R.H.Q.

Elements of 249 Signal Squadron formed the mob under the leadership of **Captain Les Waumsley.** Their aim was to test the riot squad's effectiveness at repelling any would-be intruders. It soon became apparent that it was very difficult to penetrate the unit's lines and the odd troublesome rioter that did get in soon found himself in the guardroom.

Visit to H.M.S. Intrepid

At the invitation of **Captain Andrew Briggs** six officers from the Regiment visited H.M.S. *Intrepid* during her recent visit to Singapore. The visit included a full conducted tour of the ship including the shipborne satellite equipment. The party gathered that it is a little unnerving for a duty officer to answer his telephone and be speaking to someone in M.O.D.

The party also visited the communication office, the home of 661 Signal Troop, and saw the Royal Signals operators working alongside their Royal Navy counterparts.

The visit ended with drinks and lunch in the Wardroom where, much to everyone's pleasure, English beer was served! During this the party met a number of the ship's officers and arranged a small exercise with the Royal Navy operators on dry land and some operators from 249 Squadron aboard H.M.S. *Intrepid.* From the results of the exercise it proved to be a great success.

After lunch the party returned to the Regiment having wished them a good stay in the Far East.

Children of the Regiment on holiday

To ensure that the school children arriving from U.K. on their summer holidays were kept busy various sporting activities were arranged.

Our P.R.I., **Major Dick Turpin,** arranged coaching in soccer, tennis, swimming, hockey and shooting for the children under the supervision of **Staff Sergeant 'Mac' McKenzie, Sergeant Sardul Singh** (we intend running a feature on this N.C.O.'s career) and **Corporal Lawrence Fernandez.**

After training, the Regimental Wives' Club frequently took the children away on visits, the most popular being Walls ice-cream and the local soft drinks factory.

Regimental cricket team winners of the FARELF Trophy

The Regimental cricket team has had an excellent season; their final triumph was to win the FARELF Trophy—a very exciting 72-over match.

Our players this season included **Majors Peter Tripp, Dick Turpin, Jerry Bally, Captains Les Waumsley, Brian Robinson, Lieutenant Clive Collier, W.O.I John Howie** (skipper), **Staff Sergeant John Richardson, Sergeant Dave Hope, Corporal Kevin Lever, Signalmen Lindrey Alleyne, Dave Foley, Mike Langley** and **Bob Ellworthy.**

Highlights of the final were 95 Lt. Cdo. Regiment's total score of 108 for 8 in 36 overs. **Lieutenant Clive Collier,** 4 for 58 in 16 overs, and **Signalman Lindrey Alleyne** 3 for 32 in 18 overs.

The Regiment beat the 108 in 35 overs. **Major Peter Tripp's** 36 runs, **Major Jerry Bally's** 21 and **Lieutenant Cheryl Collier's,** W.R.A.C., scoring helped considerably.

Officers v. W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s at cricket

This was by far the most enjoyable match of the year and the best supported. The Officers traditionally played their hardest and still lost. The mothers did an excellent job controlling their children throughout the long day and expressed their appreciation of the excellent luncheon and tea provided by the Regiment's catering staff, supervised by **W.O.II Keith Young, A.C.C.**

Sepak Raga

During early August the eighth annual Sepak Raga competition was held. Each Squadron had to field a minimum of two British and two L.E.P. teams. The competition provided considerable entertainment for both players and spectators alike. The L.E.P. competition was won by H.Q. Squadron, **Corporal Hassan Saji, Signalman Aziz, Lance-Corporal Che Abdullah** and **Sergeant Raja Jaffar.** The runners-up were 1 Squadron.

The British competition was won by H.Q. Squadron, **Staff Sergeant Richardson, Corporal Boulby, Captain Roger Garlick** and **Captain Brian Robinson.** Although the Regimental team was placed sixth in the Singapore District league competition, we have great hopes of success in the Singapore District knock-out competition to be held later this month.

POSTED TO 18th SIGNAL REGIMENT? BEWARE!

By Second-Lieutenant Phil Sharman

When I joined 18th Signal Regiment I don't think I could really have been blamed for thinking I would be assimulated into a Signals establishment. However, that was only a means of getting me to Singapore without raising my suspicions. When I arrived I was told, "It takes three weeks to acclimatise yourself; you have three weeks before going on a jungle warfare course."

Now, jungle I had read about in all the best Tarzan books (bragging), one was quite convinced that behind every tree lurked a snake/tiger/gorilla (delete according to which edition of Tarzan you read).

After I had actually seen various officers who maintained they had spent many days in the jungle and were still alive to say so, they managed to calm me down sufficiently to send me on the course with **Second-Lieutenant Ted Crampton.**

We soldiered manfully through the course and I learnt my main lessons. To be immune from those jungle nasties you must have someone with you who has a definite affinity to them.

Now I had **Ted.** I managed the whole course with nothing worse than a bad stomach ache. **Ted,** on the other hand, got stung by wasps, hornets, bitten by scorpions and bull leeches. What's more, as he stepped out of the jungle he developed very, very acute appendicitis and ended up in B.M.H.

There we have it, the main lesson, always take a **Ted Crampton** as part of your jungle survival kit. He comes in an easy-to-handle 6ft. 4in. package and is obtainable at reasonable cost from the Adjutant's Office, 18th Signal Regiment.

19th Signal Regt.

c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Officers' Mug Party

ON 1st August, **Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert** and the officers of the Regiment, together with their wives, gathered at the Changi R.A.F. Officers' Club for a dinner and dance to say farewell to **Major and Mrs. G. A. Cox** and to **Captain** and **Mrs. B. F. Strange,** who are returning to the U.K. after their tour of duty in Singapore. **Major Gerry Cox** actually departed on 15th August and is about to be indoctrinated into the mysteries of serving with a Volunteer unit. **Captain Bernard Strange** leaves us, on promotion, and is joining 8th Signal Regiment at Catterick Camp. After dinner, the C.O. gave an amusing speech, during which he gave a graphic description of the attributes of the two officers concerned, before presenting them with the customary inscribed mugs.

FARELF W.O.s' and S.N.C.O.s' Anniversary Corps Ball

The 50th Anniversary Corps Ball of the W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s of the Corps serving in Singapore was held on 7th August. The ball had to be delayed until that date as many of the Corps members were involved in the Far East exercise 'Bersatu Padu.' The ball was held in the Station Sergeants' Mess of R.A.F. Changi and was attended by the W.O.s and senior ranks of 5 Signal Group and of the 17th, 18th and 19th Signal Regiments. A total of 479 people attended, of which 116 were guests. The principal guests for this event were **Brigadier T. I. G. Gray,** BGS, H.Q., FARELF and **Mrs. Gray; Colonel D. A. Polley, O.B.E.,** Commander, 5 Signal Group, and **Mrs. Polley; Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. C. J. Gilbert,** 19th Signal Regiment; **Lieutenant-Colonel** and **Mrs. A. C. Dexter,** 17th Signal Regiment, and **Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Hild, M.B.E.,** 18th Signal Regiment. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 50th anniversary cake, which weighed over 60lb. and was decorated with a 'Jimmy' and 50 candles. The cake was wheeled in by **S.S.M. Zainul Abeedin B. Ariffin, S.S.M. Bob Isaac** and two LEP soldiers in ceremonial dress, whilst the FEAF Band played the Corps March. The wives of the senior and junior members present, **Mrs. Gray** and **Mrs. Vargas** (wife of Sergeant Barry Vargas) were escorted to blow out the candles and were then presented with inscribed pewter powder bowls to mark the occasion. The cake was later donated to the local children's homes.

A magnificent buffet was prepared by the chefs of the R.A.F. Station Sergeants' Mess, after which dancing to the FEAF dance band continued until 2 a.m. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Annual Small Arms Competition

On Monday, 24th August, the Regiment held an Inter-Troop Small Arms Competition at the Nee Soon ranges. The day's shooting was very pleasant and the tropical storms kept away and gave us a very hot, but dry day.

The morning was devoted to the Para Cup and Stage 1 of the rifle competition. After lunch, the Roberts and section matches were held, and the meeting finished with the falling plate competition.

Staff Sergeant Gordon Smith attended the shoot from Gan Island Troop, and was a great help in the W.O.s' and Senior N.C.O.s' team, but suffered bad luck in the finals when his rifle jammed at a critical stage. He is, however, staying in Singapore for the FARELF (Singapore) Corps Shoot, which is being held at Nee Soon on 7th and 8th September.

R.A.F., Changi, Sports Day

Athletes of the Regiment took part in the R.A.F., Changi, sports day and, in keeping with past tradition, the finalé of the event was a chariot race, in which teams of six stalwarts pull chariots ridden by the Wing Commanders and C.O. of 19th Signal Regiment. The Signals entry looked to be going very well, aided by a smoke grenade detonated at a critical moment! All would have been well had not more R.A.F. supporters invaded the arena, and in frustration, at seeing their own teams being beaten, attacked and started to dismantle the Signals chariot whilst still on the move.

In the athletics proper, the Army team managed to gain second place to a very strong team from Admin Wing.

21st Signal Regiment, B.F.P.O. 42

THIS month we have decided to offer readers an eyewitness account of Exercise 'Bavarian Interlude' by one of the survivors. 4 (Harrier) Squadron are taking an increasingly prominent part in unit affairs and it is an appropriate time to devote a whole issue of notes to them.

Contrary to the general impression given by their article, we have reason to believe that they did find time for some detachment and individual training. The main aim of the exercise was to give the Squadron a chance to get away from it all and develop their *esprit de Corps.* In this, they seem to have been more than successful.

4 SQUADRON IN BAVARIA

It seems only a short time ago that 4 (Harrier) Squadron consisted of two Officers and one N.C.O., the rest of the Squadron existing only in the nebulous form of promisory notes. Since April, however, these notes have been redeemed with considerable interest, the result being that the Squadron is now up to almost 50% of establishment. Approximately one-and-a-half of the three Troops are now being formed, although for equipment reasons only one Troop can be operational, that being 'F' (Primary Site) Troop commanded by **Captain Hywel Thomas.**

Learning fast

We are slightly ahead of our comrades in the R.A.F., who have just flown out to Wildenrath the first of the three Squadrons of Harrier aircraft. Both of us are very much in our adolesence. We are both learning very fast, however, mainly as a result of several deployments which we have already undertaken with 4 and 18 Squadrons, R.A.F. The latest of these was perhaps the most satisfactory, and involved a radio link of 190 kilometres, including a double re-broadcast with SR C42 No. 3 radios.

The past few months have therefore been fairly full, and almost before we knew it, we had reached July, and all was set for the most popular exercise of the year—'Bavarian Interlude.'

A wild idea

This was the indirect result of an injury sustained by **Captain Hywel Thomas** when, in a fit of youthful exuberance, brought on by the start of the athletics season, he accidently bruised a foot muscle in the shot circle. This forced him to spend a period lying down with his foot elevated, and the consequent flow of blood to the head brought on several ideas, one of these being that we should all go on a summer camp. This was broken to **Major Dick Sumner** with all the usual diplomatic acuity which the O.C. F Troop can muster when he wants someone to agree to something. To everyone's astonishment and delight, the idea was accepted and we were all booked for Garmisch Partenkirchen in July.

As could be expected, the scheme was received less enthusiastically by the M.T.O., **Lieutenant Alistair Clark,** and **S.Q.M.S. John Widdicombe,** who were saddled with the tricky task of respectively transporting and victualling the Squadron. Other officers heaved sighs of relief when **Lieutenant Tony Hutt** volunteered to act as camp admin officer, and all agreed that men had been decorated for less. There was minor panic when the postal system broke down and the application for exercise permission went off late; O.C. 'F' Troop was heard savagely hissing that we should never have completely abandoned forked sticks. However, these were just ripples in the river of progress, and with dire inevitability the date drew nearer.

Taking beer to Bavaria!

The advance party set off on the long drive to Bavaria, stocked up with all the necessities of life, ranging from 180lb. tents, through refrigerators, to cases of beer. To the commercially-minded reader, it might seem that to take beer to Bavaria must be akin to taking coals to Newcastle or importing pineapple to Hawaii. However, **Sergeant Adam Patterson** did not earn his reputation as a canny Scot for nothing, and had used an exercise recce to do a bit of price comparing. Our local brew came off best. Simple, isn't it?

A distinctly overcast sky met us on arrival at Garmisch-Partenkirchen; however, the cheery good humour of **Corporal 'Chalky' James** soon restored us to our usual happy equilibrium, and the first night in camp was passed in a happy, if predictable, fashion.

At the top of the Zugspitz

The next day several hardy souls ascended the Zugspitz by cable car. This is Germany's highest mountain, and to say that the view from the top left us breathless would be accurate in not only the visual sense. The sun was brilliantly hot and reflected off the summit icefields in the way that made **C.S.M.I. Stan Woods** and **Captain Hywel Thomas** think longingly of the ski-ing season. The unlikely presence on the summit of a complete German gasthof, with all the trimmings, inspired **Lieutenants Tom Moncur** and **Alistair Clark** to sample a glass of atmospherically-cooled beer. Both proclaimed the experiment a success, and had time to murmur a few superlatives before falling asleep completely.

During a day of map-reading and hill-walking, several good efforts were put up, notably by the team led by **Corporal John Hodgkiss,** in which **Corporal Mick Gue** found that maps were really quite useful things. After all was finished, the Squadron returned to camp 'en masse,' where the various assortment of blisters were reported to be responding well to much of the usual treatment.

Ascending a peak—Gue style

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a superb spot, and the activities of the next few days took in just about everything the area could offer, ranging through hill-walking, sailing, swimming, football, basketball, sightseeing and plain old sunbathing. We did some military training; notable among the exploits was the ascent of the Kramer Peak (6,000 feet) by **Second-Lieutenant Tom Moncur, Corporal Mike Gue** and **Signalman Gene Moy.** The 'par time' for this peak, by the approved route is four-and-a-half-hours. Declaring, however, that paths were for old ladies with walking-sticks, **Corporal Gue** suggested that we should go straight up, and this is exactly what we did. The time taken? Two hours, twenty minutes!

Finally, a barbecue

The camp came to an end in a blaze of glory, with a barbecue held on the Thursday evening. Apart from providing another excellent excuse for relaxation, it was an ideal opportunity for us all to thank several people at the United States Army Recreation Centre at Garmisch-Partenkirchen for their considerable help in setting up camp and getting the most out of the area. The centre of attraction at the barbecue alternated between a magnificent sucking pig, which was roasted on an open spit, and an itinerant group of folk singers who happened to be passing through and stopped to join the fun. Mention must be made of **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Storie** and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Sanders,** who purveyed throughout a band of pawky humour tempered by sound common sense, and who must take no small credit for restoring morale on the odd occasion when it began to sag.

READING SOMEONE ELSE'S WIRE?
WHY NOT GET YOUR OWN COPY?

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

Visits

THE Regiment was visited by the Chief Signal Officer, B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.** After arriving by helicopter, he visited each Squadron in turn, finishing up with tea in the Officers' Mess before flying off to visit 13th Signal Regiment.

Summer Camps

Both 1 and 2 Squadrons have been off to different parts of Germany for two weeks in July. 1 Squadron, led by **Captain Peter Pearson,** visited the Baden-Baden area, while Captain **John Barrett** took 2 Squadron further afield to the Chiemsee, in Bavaria. By the look of the bronzed, sun-tanned faces that returned, both Squadrons had good weather and enjoyed a full programme of alfresco-type activities. 3 Squadron is yet to venture to their summer camp, but there is a strong rumour that September is their month for a well-earned vacation before they settle down to the task of 'BRUINISATION.'

Sport

Athletics has been the main sport of the summer season, where the Regiment started by coming sixth in the 4th Division Championships, followed by a win over the local German team, LVF Lippstadt. This meeting, incidentally, is scheduled to become an annual event. 3 Squadron convincingly won the Inter-Squadron Meeting on 9th July, and in the Morrison Cup, the Regiment finished fourth. Individual star of the season is **Corporal Venus,** who won the B.A.O.R. Individual 10,000 metres (a new record) and Individual 5,000 metres.

Sailing has been fairly prominent, with our C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel Cooper** and his crew member, **Lance-Corporal Mold,** being selected to sail in the annual triangular match on the Mohne See. After some exciting races, Royal Signals carried off the trophy for the second year running. On both days, the races were sailed in some of the worst black squalls that the Mohne See has seen for some time.

Shooting

At the Royal Signals Skill at Arms Meeting, notable in the individual order of merit were **Lance-Corporal Bill Mayo,** who was third in the Roupell Cup and 10th in the Henry Whitehead Cup; **Lance-Corporal Ron Kirkwood** showed potential by achieving 18th position in the Whitehead Cup, and **Lance-Corporal Jeff Parker** did very well to be placed 16th in the Army Hundred competition.

The improvement in team shooting over the period of the meeting was reflected in a closely-contested Small Arms Cup Competition. The incredible momentum and steady mass of **Lance-Corporal Bill Mayo** on the LMG was undoubtedly a major factor in the team achievement of second place.

Towards 'Bruin'

IN the Regimental notes published in the Jubilee edition of THE WIRE it was stated that 1970 would prove to be an interesting year in the history of the Regiment with the 'Bruinisation' of 3 Squadron. This is now in full swing with the result that the Regimental exercise season has continued through the summer without the usual break. During one recent exercise we received the attentions of 2 A.T.A.F. and now have full sympathy with the inhabitants of Hounslow. No regiment has quite 'arrived' until it has a tracked vehicle or two and we are rectifying this defect later in the month. Anxious faces have been seen in the L.A.D. poring over unfamiliar manuals.

It's just not cricket

The sub heading was a comment overheard on the touch-line on 24th August during the finals of the Inter-Squadron Knock-out Hockey Competition. A true comment indeed in some respects as the numerous spectators witnessed some glorious drives across the dead-ball line in a temperature ranging to the 70s. The competition, run over the previous two months, had provided much exciting hockey and served to introduce many soldiers to the game for the first time. In the final 1 Squadron 'A' team met H.Q. Squadron 'A' team and in a fast exciting game extending to extra time the 1 Squadron side ran out the victors by a short corner. The final of the plate competition

PLENTY OF ACTION
The final of the inter-squadron hockey. 2 Squadron defence attempts to repulse a right flank attack by H.Q. Squadron

was won by H.Q. Squadron 'B' team who beat 2 Squadron 'A' team by one goal to nil. A fine afternoon's hockey concluded with the presentation of prizes by Mrs. Pritchard, the wife of our Second-in-Command.

An important means of communication

During Exercise 'Mistle Thrush' we were very pleased to extend hospitality to two Belgian officers from the 6 Bataljon Transmissietroepen. The latter is a Signals Unit of 1 (BE) Corps and an affiliation exists between them and this Regiment. Prior to the exercise the affiliation had been conducted on a social basis but on this occasion we welcomed them to study our methods of deployment and communication in the field. During the course of next month we are to send two officers to attend one of their scheduled exercises. Such exchanges are an important means of communication as talking to our N.A.T.O. allies can only but produce a good result.

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

AFTER a very busy series of exercises since early April, in July many members of the Regiment were able to draw breath for the first time for many weeks. Many have taken the opportunity to forsake the bracing air of Krefeld for sunny Mediterranean shores, including a large contingent of caravans led by **Major Derek Copeland** who, before leaving, is alleged to have emptied the M.I. Room of its stock of patent medicines and other medical comforts so that he could establish a dispensary for the benefit of other holiday-makers on the Adriatic coast. Even **R.S.M. Brian Turner** has joined the trek South, and for a few weeks the soldiers can relax without feeling that 'The All-Seeing Eye' is about to pounce.

Athletics

In the Morrison Cup athletics meeting, we achieved third place, our best effort yet in this competition, and it was a tribute to the enthusiasm and determination shown by all the members of the team. We refused to be overawed by the galaxy of talent in the 21st Signal Regiment team, and did in fact win two events outright. **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Alan Webster** and **Craftsman Dick Elliot** won the shot, and in the discus **Captain Jim Chater** and **Signalman Dennis Rumbold** scored our second success. Incidentally, we understand that **Captain Chater** is the only grandfather ever to win a medal in the Morrison Cup—one record that 21st Regiment cannot claim to better! The middle distance team ran well against distinguished opposition, particularly **Lance-Corporal Tommy Hope,** our all-purpose athlete. The tug-of-war team, coached by **Corporal 'Andy' Keenan,** reached their fourth consecutive final before, once again, going down to 21st Regiment. We understand that Officer i/c Royal Signals Records has at last caught up with some familiar faces in the latter team, and we have high hopes for next year.

Orienteering

The inaugural Orienteering meeting in Rhine Area was held at Mercury Barracks, Birgelen. Although our team of five had not had much previous experience of this particular sport they did very well to finish second out of ten competing teams. The five-mile course, mainly through woods, proved to be tricky in places because some redevelopment had taken place since the maps were compiled. The mysterious disappearance of one control frustrated most of the competitors, especially **Signalman Dave Vince** who spent 30 minutes combing the woods for it. The individual team placings were: **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston** 4th, **Signalman Dave Vince** 8th, **Lance-Corporal Bob Taylor** 14th, **Corporal Graham Crossland** 18th. **Signalman David Moody** was our fifth runner.

Marriages

4th July was Independence Day for **Lynn,** the daughter of the Quartermaster (Technical), **Captain Les Taylor. Lieutenant Stuart Moralee,** a former officer of the Regiment, returned to Krefeld in his noisy Mercedes to marry **Lynn,** the wedding taking place in the Garrison Church, conducted by the Garrison Chaplain, **The Reverend Alex Smith.** It was, of course, very much a Regimental affair and the guests included a number of Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s who had 'looked after' **Lieutenant Moralee** when he had arrived in the Regiment on first commissioning. The reception was held in the Officers' Mess, after which the happy pair disappeared south in the aforesaid noisy Mercedes.

July seems to have been a popular month for weddings. Others who took the irrevocable step were **Corporal Peter Bunce, Lance-Corporal Mick Marchant, Lance-Corporal Mick Mills** and **Signalman Ron McQueen.** We wish them and their wives the very best for the future.

WEDDING
Lyn, the daughter of Quartermaster (T) Captain L. Taylor, with her husband Lieutenant Stuart Moralee, after their wedding at the Garrison Church, Krefeld

Births

The summer has been a productive one. Their friends in the Corps may wish to join us in congratulating **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) and Mrs. Tony Whydell, Sergeant and Mrs. Ken Underwood, Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Pete Hodgkinson** on the arrival of daughters, and **Corporal and Mrs. Terry Watson** on the birth of a son.

Wives' Club

After a long spell of warm, dry weather the great day of the Wives' Club outing dawned—cold and wet. Despite the ominous skies, 43 ladies, led with panache by **Judy Macdonald** and **Beryl Turner,** the respective wives of the Commanding Officer and the R.S.M., set off in a coach for Cologne, where a search for umbrellas proved to be the first priority. After a good look round the shops, they boarded the coach again to travel to Linz, a small town on the East bank of the Rhine. Here they were able to admire many of the local crafts and, in many cases, the housekeeping money was exchanged for various objets d'art. A journey by steamer down the Rhine followed; those who still had some money left were able to have something to eat or drink (or both), while they watched the banks of the Rhine slip past through the pouring rain. After disembarking at Bonn, the party returned by coach to Krefeld.

In spite of the terrible weather, which never eased up for a moment, the expedition was considered a great success by all those who took part.

Departures

Captain Tony Tregoning has left the Regiment on promotion, and the Sergeants' Mess has lost three stalwart members: **W.O.I (F. of S.) Butler,** who has gone to Blandford on commissioning; **W.O.I Oytaben** (A.C.C.), for the last two years leader of our Army Cooking Champions; **W.O.II (Legs) Berriman** to the wilds of Chester, on promotion.

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Parade at Blandford

AT 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th September, the centre of Blandford was brought to a standstill when over 200 officers and soldiers of the Regiment marched through the town to mark the tenth anniversary of the arrival of the Regiment at Blandford Camp.

Several hundred people lined the Market Place to watch the Corps Band and five Squadrons march past the saluting dais outside the Corn Exchange. The salute was taken by the Mayor, **Alderman Mrs. G. F. Lane,** accompanied by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose.** The saluting dais was flanked by the Bargemaster of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, **Mr. H. E. Cobb,** and two watermen bearing their oars. **Mr. Cobb** was dressed in the 17th Century ornate livery of the Company and the Mayor and Town Council were wearing their robes of office. We were particularly pleased to have the representatives of the Dyers Company for the occasion because it is also ten years since the Regiment was adopted by the Company. We were also equally glad to welcome **Colonel J. Piddington, O.B.E., M.C.,** for the event because he commanded the Regiment and the parade in May, 1960. The parade was watched by **Major-General R. J. Moberly, C.B., O.B.E.,** and a distinguished group of civic representatives from the area. The senior military officers attending the parade were the Station Commander, **Brigadier J. Cubberley,** Chief Signal Officer Army Strategic Command, **Brigadier G. Proudman, M.B.E.,** and the Group Commander, **Colonel E. J. Winn.** The Parade Commander was **Major B. O. Haw** and the Band was under the Director of Music, **Captain K. R. Boulding.** It is with some satisfaction that we record that the rain held off sufficiently long for this colourful ceremony to be completed with success. After the parade the Mayor and Council were entertained in the Officers' Mess.

In the evening the Director of Music and the Corps Band demonstrated their considerable talent with a superb programme at a public concert in the High School. The hall was full to capacity and the audience applauded the items with great enthusiasm.

Visit of Commander AMF(L)

The Regiment has been honoured by the visit of **General Li Gobbi,** the Commander Allied Mobile Force (Land), on 10th September. Following a briefing in the Mounting Centre, **General Li Gobbi** was accompanied by the Commanding Officer on a helicopter visit to see the AMF(L) Force Radio Troop carry out training with detachments at Blandford, Bovington, Fovant and Larkhill.

Autumn Exercises

At the time of going to press the Regiment is preparing for a busy period of exercises. The AMF(L) Force Radio Troop have already started their work-up exercises for Exercise 'Deep Express' in Turkey, and will shortly depart for Germany to join their parent headquarters. Germany is a popular venue as 4 Squadron will also be spending four weeks training with B.A.O.R. units later this month. Meanwhile 1 Squadron are preparing for their part with 3rd Division on Exercise 'Crystal Palace' nearer home on the Salisbury Plain training area. The Regiment is co-ordinating all the work-up training on Exercise 'Double Edge' from 13th-18th September. The Regimental canoeists have other ideas and are being spared at considerable expense to go to Scotland for Exercise 'Glengarry' on Adventure Training. However, there is no easy alternative, the journey between Oban and Inverness on the Caledonian canal starts with a 40-mile sea passage along the shores of Loch Linnle. Perhaps the 2 Squadron lineman at Lossiemouth on Exercise 'Polex' will have a slightly less arduous task to perform.

Rotation of overseas detachments

We were pleased to offer a warm welcome to **Yeoman Halliwell** and his detachment from Anguilla. After six months' Caribbean sunshine all were looking bronzed and very fit to withstand a period of individual training at Blandford. **Staff Sergeant Lamberton** takes over the detachment until March. 1971. **Major Tom Blashill** has been busy rotating his Squadron detachment in Northern Ireland and we have been notified of the return of 1 Squadron's detachment from Bangkok. Members of 1 Squadron have also carried out some useful inter-Service training on board H.M. ships with H.M.S. *Nubian, Londonderry, Puma* and *Scylla,* the favoured R.V. being Gibraltar, but the prospects seem limitless in that much-travelled Squadron.

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7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

Summer Camp

AS usual, July was set aside for summer camp, and once again we went to the shores of Eckernforde. The advance party of 20 left on 9th July to set up the camp by the 12th. This was not as easy as it sounds, considering that they had two five-panel marquees, two one-panel marquees, one candy box and twenty 160lb. tents to erect, plus all the normal administrative requirements of lighting, refrigeration, etc., that go with a camp catering for 80 people. Fortunately, the weather was kind and all was ready for the first main party to arrive on the 13th. Although the camp lasts for three weeks, because of normal commitments, the Squadron was split and each half went for eight days, the changeover day being a free day for the permanent staff.

The aim of the camp was, to quote the administrative instruction, " to improve the overall fitness of the unit." This sounds as though a great deal of hard fitness training goes on, but we achieved the aim by producing a programme that included volleyball, football, swimming, canoeing, orienteering, assault boat training and races, and an assault course.

The basis of the training programme was an inter-section competition, which included leagues for volleyball and football. An orienteering competition, initiative test and assault course competition all count towards the main competition. The inevitable crate of beer was the prize, and on many an occasion cries of ' beer - beer - beer ' were heard from a very weary crew paddling an assault boat out round the raft and back to the shore.

How far into Denmark was the aim

The two main highlights, as far as training is concerned, were the initiative test and the escape and evasion exercise. We decided this year to venture still further northwards, and so the initiative test took place in Denmark. Having issued border passes to each pair at 06.00 hours, they had to go as far into Denmark as possible and return to camp by 19.00 hours, collecting various items on the journey, such as a two-day-old Danish paper or a full bottle of beer from a Danish brewery. One pair, **Corporal Roberts** and **Lance - Corporal Kinnell** managed to reach Copenhagen, which was a highly commendable result.

The escape and evasion exercise lasts for just over 12 hours, and the issue fresh rations of raw fish, eggs and potatoes drew many a blank stare. Many a story was told of how pairs were chased over fences, through hedges and across fields. After this excursion into the field, which finished at 03.30, the rest of the day was spent sleeping and getting ready for a barbecue. We must thank the unit farm and P.R.I. for providing us with two excellent pigs, that took about ten hours to cook. On the note of thanks, our appreciation must also go to **Colour Sergeant Gibson** (1 RGJ) and **Staff Sergeant Cazaly**, 32 Engineer Regiment for organising the canoeing and boating side of the programme, by the end of the week many had become quite proficient canoeists, and very rarely was there a spare canoe on the beach. One interesting occupation was a ' jousting ' competition, which ended up with the officers and N.C.O.s repelling boarders from their assault boat.

Commissioning

Our heartiest congratulations go to **W.O.I (R.S.M.) G. S. MacDonald,** who leaves the unit on commissioning, also our thanks for a job extremely well done. As normal, if one goes another comes, and we welcome **W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. S. Bresloff,** and hope he has an enjoyable stay in Soltau.

11 Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron (211) B.F.P.O. 29

Our man in Antarctica

SIGNALMAN **Rick Lee** from ' Alpha ' Troop is joining the British Antarctica Survey team in December on a secondment for an 18-month tour.

Signalman Lee is a radio operator and his selection for the team came as a result of his own initiative. He saw the vacancy advertised in the Mountaineering Journal and wrote away. He then received an application form followed by an interview in London. Being a keen climber and skier prompted him to apply for the job; nevertheless **Signalman Lee** realises that this time will not all be pleasure as he will be working a

OFF TO THE ANTARCTIC
Signalman Rick Lee who has volunteered and been accepted for the British Antarctica Survey Team

14-hour day, working four schedules as well as helping in the general running of the camp.

Before the survey team sail, **Signalman Lee** will attend familiarisation courses at both Creed Ltd. and Racal Ltd.

We all wish **Rick Lee** the best of luck in Antarctica and hope we will hear some interesting news from him.

Stop Press

The Squadron won the B.A.O.R. Minor Unit cricket knock-out cup on 4th September, defeating 17 B.V.D. by one run! Report and photographs next month.

The WIRE
Without it—
You're not With it!

12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn. (212) B.F.P.O. 36

Farewells

THIS month we say goodbye to our O.C. ' Bravo ' Troop, **Lieutenant D. M. J. Chatterton,** as he leaves for R.M.C.S. ' Bravo ' Troop will certainly miss him, and so will the author of these notes, as he used to write them!

Still marching

Since Nijmegen we have been on two further marches, one at Herne and the other at Altastenberge. We intend to go on a further march in Oosterbeck near Arnhem this weekend. We congratulate **Private Karbanneck, Signalman Thompson** and **Lieutenant Sugdon for winning gold medals.** Approximately 20 members of the Squadron took part in each of the events. They all obtained medals for completing them within the allocated time. **Signalman Thompson** earned himself a large cup.

S.H.Q. Troop

This week we introduce S.H.Q. Troop. Have you ever tried getting together in one place for a photograph. **Staff Sergeant Derrick** tried and here is the result.

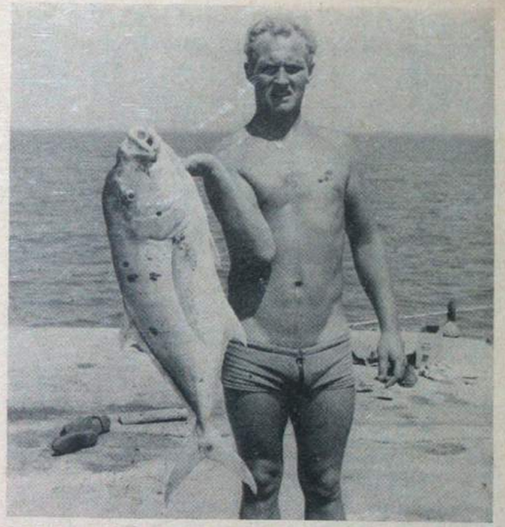
S.H.Q. TROOP—THE WORKERS
Back Row: Lance-Corporal Power, A.C.C., Signalman Newton, Corporal Connell, Corporal Clay, Royal Anglian, Private Harris, A.C.C., Lance-Corporal Hart, D. & D., Signalman Grant
Centre Row: Lance-Corporal Finnigan, Int. Corps, Corporal Hill, Int. Corps, Lance-Corporal Blackwell, Int. Corps, Lance-Corporal Sylvester, R.A.O.C., Lance-Corporal Davis, R.A.O.C., Private Curry, R.A.O.C., Private Noble, R.A.O.C.
Front Row: Lance-Corporal Storey, Lance-Corporal Cattell, Corporal Mason, R.A.P.C., Signalman Edwards, Signalman Carter, Signalman McMeechan and of course the photographer Staff-Sergeant Derrick

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah) B.F.P.O. 64

IN this issue of THE WIRE our space has been devoted to what must be two of the most remote outposts of the Corps. These are the detachments of Airfield Troop at Masirah and Salalah in the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman.

Masirah Detachment

Masirah is an island in the Indian Ocean off the Muscat coast about 350 miles from Sharjah. The detachment there is commanded by **Sergeant Jim Redgrave.** There are no towns on the island which has only a small population and can be described as the original desert island. The forces camp is completely self contained and includes a salt water swimming pool. This pool is necessary because, although there are miles



ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY
Signalman Geordie Colling with a catch at Masirah

of golden beaches, swimming is out of the question in seas teaming with shark, baracuda and sting ray, to mention only a few types of the many dangerous fish. Two of the chef's speciality here are baracuda steak and crayfish salad, both of which the island exports.

Signalmen ' Geordie ' Colling and **Ray Byatt,** both keen fishermen, have many large catches to their credit. Another highlight of interest on the island is to watch the turtles crawl up the beach and lay their eggs. This is a natural phenomena which can be seen time and again any summer night.

Salalah Detachment

Salalah is about 300 miles south of Masirah. Although on the mainland it is even more remote than Masirah, the three scheduled service flights there each week being the only contact with the outside world. There are no tarmac roads in Salalah and as far as is known the overland route from Sharjah has never been attempted by Army personnel. The detachment is commanded by **Corporal Vince Holt** who, in the best lineman tradition, is picking up Arabic like a native of Devon. **Lance-Corporal ' Bugsy ' Turner** by sheer effort kept the station's Radio 219 on line by ' piping ' it over cable to the accommodation, while **Lance-Corporal ' Brummie ' Parsonage** is a star soccer player, presenting a good Army image. Morale is high and Salalah is a popular outpost. This is borne out by requests from **Signalman Jim Davis** asking to spend the rest of his tour there, and **Signalman David Brown** who, on hearing about it in B.A.O.R. from a previous member of the Troop, immediately volunteered for service there.

Both these detachments are fully integrated with the RAF, as might be more obvious from their short shorts and haircuts! In their work they provide and maintain the all-important line communications on the airfields and defence perimeter.

The Troop Headquarters is at Sharjah commanded by **Captain Leslie Steane,** a popular figure on the station. A trained F.A.C. he returned recently from a course in Cyprus where he had kept his log up to date on the Harrier. His tales of Cyprus brought a flood of requests on Squadron Headquarters for courses of any type, even M.P.C.!

The notes would not be complete without a sad farewell to **Sergeants King** and **Carre,** both of whom leave on completion of their military service. **Sergeant Mick King,** after 22 years as a line troop Sergeant par excellance, and **Sergeant Pete Carre,** is our technical expert on the 2000-type exchange.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Barbecue

TWO of our more enterprising Signalmen, **Jeff Brown** and **'Yorkie' Trollope,** decided that the social life of Operations Troop lacked lustre. Their answer to the problem was a barbecue, complete with suckling pig and all the trimmings, copious quantities of ale and a cacophony of sound which would have done credit to Woodstock. Funds were raised by extortion, blackmail, raffles, and a well-timed invitation to the Executive Officer, who holds the purse strings of M.C.C. funds.

Recorded music was provided by **John Greenbank** and **Alan Turner** under the critical ear of Jeff, Yorkie and the Maastricht populace. The citizens of Maastricht appear to have a poor ear for contemporary music; they also expressed a fear that the City's ancient walls would emulate those of Jericho. The dancers showed no such inhibitions, and with **Sergeant Ray Jeffery** as M.C., they soon had the place rocking. **Yeoman Derek Moat** gave a very spirited rendering of the shake; he danced like a dervish, and at times seemed in danger of striking resonant frequency before eventually disintegrating. His daughter finally took him home by the ear before he could do himself a mischief.

Yeoman Colin Heaps gave the organisers a vote of thanks and expressed gratification that the pig had materialised, thus saving him from occupying the position of honour, on the spit. He was reassured when he discovered that in a vote amongst Operations Troop personnel, the pig had only won by a short head.

The evening ended with the company singing, in what passed for unison, to the guitar accompaniment of **Signalman John Greenbank.**

Officers' Mess

On Saturday, 8th August, **Major W. A. F. Morgan** and the Squadron Officers organised a party for their associates in H.Q., AFCENT. The theme of the party was nautical, and **Captain Rex Stephenson** was appointed chief decorator of 'H.M.S. Venus.' His efforts on acquiring authentic nautical objects for decoration were so successful that fears arose that the Officers' Mess would sail off down the Maas. He very quickly allayed these fears by producing two huge anchors which looked capable of anchoring the Q.E.2.

During the decorating for the party, he asked **Foreman John Bridgeman** if he was any good at making nipples stand out. John, with becoming modesty, admitted that he possessed something of a talent in this field. He was quite nonplussed when he discovered that the nipples in question were on a rather sensual wooden figurehead, and that his services were simply to provide flashing lights in the appropriate spots.

The party proved a great success, but we must confess that it lacked authenticity in that we had no 'sit-in' in the wardroom flat, and no 'gentleman of the road' imbibing with the skipper.

Courses

Sergeant Jeff Williams has recently returned to the fold, having successfully completed the All Arms Drill Course. He is now undergoing an AFCENT rehabilitation course to fit him for duty with some of our more democratic allies. At the moment he shudders perceptibly when some of our more hirsute German or Dutch troops pass him, whilst the casual camaraderie of our American colleagues sends him muttering imprecations and words we can only assume he learned from some drill sergeant. We trust that we will be able to eradicate his addiction to such phrases as 'bend the knee' and 'you dozey idle man' before we have an epidemic of nervous breakdowns.

Families' Outing

A trip to the Lion Safari at Tuddern was organised for the children and proved to be very popular. Perhaps after nine weeks' school holidays, parents welcomed it as a chance to dispose of recalcitrant children. Their hopes were dashed, as **Mary Bell** went along as escort, and reports suggest that the lions were more frightened of being savaged by Mary than anything else. **Eric Bell** has, of course, sent them a letter of condolence; he feels that he understands their problem completely.

Apart from the camels refusing to let the children disembark from the bus, a good time was had by all. Parents may have been disappointed that some of the children did not emulate Albert's fate with the lion, but they concealed it well by simply dusting the sticks and putting them away for next time.

Departures

A number of our personalities have departed since writing our last notes, notably **Corporal Darrel Palmer** to 1st Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment as Sergeant and **Sergeants Bill Hide** and **Callum Young** to 'Civvy Street.' Both Bill and Callum were technicians who have succeeded in obtaining first class civilian posts—Callum as maintenance officer with B.O.A.C., and Bill will be working for ICL computers as a field service engineer. We wish them every success and consider that their success on interviews for these jobs reflects the high esteem U.K. companies have for ex-Royal Signals Technicians. Fortunately their success has not encouraged all of our technicians to follow their lead, and a large percentage of the remainder are busy preparing for the Foreman's entrance exam.

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support) Tangmere, Sussex

THE month of August saw the return of the last members of the Squadron from Malaya at the end of Exercise Bersatu Padu, and the peak period for summer leave. Notwithstanding the latter, the month was far from slack.

Visit of Signal Officer-in-Chief

The reader may be aware that R.A.F. Tangmere was in the news early in August, when **H.R.H. The Prince of Wales** was flying from here. We were in the news again on 17th August, when the Signal Officer-in-Chief paid us a visit. **General Pentreath,** accompanied by **Brigadier Proudman,** C.S.O., Stratco, was with us from 10.30 to 15.30, and he saw a great deal in that short time. Amongst those he met were

INTEGRATED INTO THE CORPS
With the S.O.-in-C. is Flight Lieutenant Guy Pearce who commands Echo Troop of 244 Squadron

(*Continued on page* 489)

(*Continued from page* 488)

Captain Mick Giles (of whom more later) and our thoroughly integrated **Flight-Lieutenant Guy Pearce,** R.A.F., who commands 'Echo' Troop. When the General left he was kind enough to say that he was pleased with what he had seen. A really good day for the Squadron!

Sporting triumphs

Wednesday, 26th August, was yet another good day for us, for, despite our heavy leave commitment, we managed to retain the Inter-Squadron Athletics and Station Tug-of-War trophies at the R.A.F. Tangmere athletics meeting. It sounds splendid, but modesty compels us to admit that if the station had not included a slow bicycle race in the championship points scoring events we hight have been pipped. As it was, when all the rest had fallen off, **Signalmen 'Dinger' Bell** and **Jack Frost** were still there, pedalling their Army issue mounts. One further admission, **Guy Pearce,** our very own R.A.F. officer, gathered several championship points for us. Nevertheless, the record shows that 244 Signal Squadron have taken the honours two years running.

Earlier in the month, **Sergeant Wally Lockwood's** brave boys won the six-a-side soccer competition organised by the station and which involved teams from two other R.A.F. stations also. A truly notable victory.

Farewell to Mick Giles

Captain Mick Giles, our very popular Admin Officer, left the Squadron and the Army on retirement at the end of the month after 32 years' service in the Corps. Mick was, in his time, a soccer player par excellence and an outstanding cricketer; he played both games for the Corps and for the Army, and during 1967 and 1968 he managed the Corps soccer team. Latterly, though he still played soccer and cricket with this Squadron, Mick centred his attention on coaching young players; in this connection he will be sorely missed by a local civilian school at Tangmere. In addition to his other accomplishments, **Mick Giles** is a great raconteur with a wonderful sense of humour, so his dining-out of the R.A.F. Tangmere Mess was far from being a sad occasion. With his wife, Pat, he has made friends of all of both Services; on behalf of all his friends here, and throughout the Corps, we wish him the success and happiness he deserves in his new career with Barclays Bank.

Other arrivals and departures

We greeted the following newly-joined members of the Squadron during August: **Captain Joe McGlynn,** Admin Officer; **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) 'Taff' Keohane,** from 14th Regiment; **Corporal 'Curly' Jones,** flushed with success on a T1 course at 8th Regiment; **Lance-Corporal Lynn Burgess,** from 2nd Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment; and **Signalmen 'Pancho' Gomez, Pat Kelly** and **Rab Young,** from A.A.C., Harrogate.

We were sorry to lose **Lieutenant Tony Vaigncourt-Strallen** to 24th Regiment; **Corporal Mick Waterworth** for training as a pilot at the Army Aviation Centre; **Signalman Frank Lanaway** to 7th Regiment. And, as these notes are written, on a very grey morning, many of us are slowly recovering from a pre-farewell send-off, at a local pub, of **W.O.II (R.Q.M.S.) Ken Bunston,** shortly en route for 1st Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment on promotion to R.S.M. Today for some reason the R.Q. is hoping to see several of us in 1 Division 'some day.' Seriously though, we will miss his cheery countenance, and we look forward to meeting him again.

Future activities

The next few weeks will bring a return to our normally hectic exercises and work-ups and in the midst of them all we shall continue preparations for our move to RAF Benson, Oxfordshire, in November/December. Already, many of our married members have taken over quarters in and around RAF Benson, some as far afield as Wantage; we are now highly aware of the desperate shortage of up-to-date roads in the general area between Tangmere and Benson.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay) B.F.P.O. 53

Our Detachment at Cape Greco

THE detachment is the farthest flung from S.H.Q. at Episkopi. It nestles in a lunar-type landscape, only broken by an 8ft. wide road and two 60ft. parabolic dishes which overshadow the thriving Cape Greco community. The detachment is co-located with the ACE High forward scatter site and provides communication inlets to the ACE High system from Cyprus. The detachment is a part of East Troop.

The detachment is commanded by **Sergeant Johnson,** ably assisted by **Corporals McCormick, Barnett, Whillier, Spencer** and **Marshall.** The latter two are shortly to depart for sunny Catterick on Class I courses. **Sergeant Johnson** and his merry men joined forces with members of the ACE High detachment to win the 9th Signal Regiment Troop football cup last season.

Sergeant Johnson and **Corporal Marshall** indulge in the gentle art of water ski-ing, whilst it is reported that **Corporal Spencer** is 259 Signal Squadron's only competitive stamp collector.

Other news

During the last week of July, the Squadron had eight Foremen of Signals on unit strength, it must, however, be quickly added that within a week, this number had been reduced to five. **W.O.I (F. of S.) E. M. Short** departed for B.A.O.R. on commissioning, we wish him well in his new appointment. Other departures were **W.O.II (F. of S.) D. Lanyon** to B.A.O.R. and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. Edwards** to the green fields of Catterick.

Finally, our congratulations to **Captain M. S. Davies** on his recent marriage at Episkopi.

261 Signal Squadron (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 53

All hands to the pumps

AS many readers will know the weather in Cyprus during the summer months really raises little comment other than, "It's hot" or "It's b..... hot." August, however, produced two surprises—the highest temperature in Episkopi since records were started, 108°F, and a rainstorm. The gods who, as legend has it, live up on Mount Olympus, though where has yet to be discovered, must have decided that because of the mild winter they sent us, resulting in relatively few cable faults, we should be jerked out of our complacency. Airfield Troop, Akrotiri, bore the brunt of their wrath; monsoon-type rain lashed down for about an hour and the resulting 'technical difficulties' kept **Captain Gatward** and his boys fairly busy mopping up until well into the night.

There were fears at one stage that due to the prolonged immersion in water of the feet of **Corporal Charlie Manning, Signalmen Dave Moore, Mark Gardner** and **Bill Cain,** they (the said feet) would become webbed. Hurried consultations with the M.O., however, dispelled these fears.

By way of compensation, the Troop six-a-side soccer team reached the final of the Station knock-out competition, under the guidance of **Corporal 'Ossie' Osborne,** beating Supply Wing, Engineering Wing, the favourites 103 Maintenance Unit and losing by one corner to 280 Signal Unit in the final.

Farewell and . . .

These notes would not be complete without us saying farewell to **Captain (T.O.T.) R. W. V. Hutley, M.B.E.,** after more than five years in the Squadron. He motored off the other day in the general direction of 10th Signal Regiment with a prodigious leave entitlement, numerous foreign currencies and the best wishes of all in the Squadron. He will no doubt best be remembered here, certainly in R.A.F. circles, for his work on Signal's projects, principally the communications for 280 Signal Unit, Cape Gata, for which he was awarded the M.B.E. in last year's Birthday Honours.

Hello to . . .

Major (T.O.T.) A. D. Martin. We wish him and his family a happy tour with the Squadron.

Class 1 Technicians

Openings overseas and in U.K.

Cable and Wireless requires a number of additional Class 1 Technicians by the beginning of 1971.

1) Most of them will be **Radio Technicians** to work in our overseas Earth Stations, Radio stations, etc., and would, at least initially, work as technical watchkeepers doing equipment maintenance and adjustment.

Applicants should preferably have had 3rd line servicing experience of multi-channel wideband systems including one or more of the following: U.H.F., or microwave or tropospheric scatter or satellite communications or television transmission.

Applications will also be considered from technicians experienced in 3rd line servicing, both of communication-type receivers and of medium or high-powered MF (up to 3½ kilowatts) and HF (up to 30 kilowatts) transmitters.

2) A few **Radio Relay, Line or Telegraph Technicians** will also be required. These will be men with suitable experience of Error detection and correction devices on HF links, voice frequency telegraph and solid-state equipment, teleprinters and associated telegraph machines, to work in our Central Telegraph Offices overseas.

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3) London: Vacancies also occur from time to time for Class 1 Technicians of all categories to work in our London Head Office on a career basis, especially for those with experience of telephone and telex exchanges, teleprinters, etc.

Write for application form giving brief details of experience, qualifications, age and availability date to: Personnel Officer (Recruitment), Dept. A483/355, Cable and Wireless Limited, Mercury House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1.

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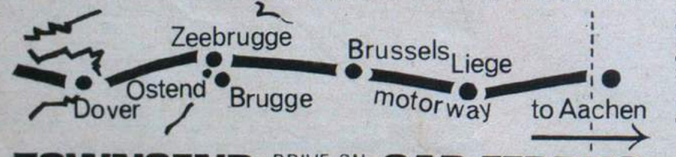

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THE VOLUNTEERS

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V) Tyne/Teesside & West Riding Middlesbrough

The road down

THE Blue Bell restaurant on the A1 was the rendezvous; three Scammels perched high over the road watched 125 vehicles and trailers converge from Leeds, Newcastle, Darlington, Middlesbrough and Hull on their way to annual camp in Lydd. All during Saturday they pulled into the camp. Another small miracle of mobilisation had occurred—a Regiment had arrived for annual training.

The first week

Incredibly quickly to Regular Army eyes, welders become cooks, bus conductresses become Comcen Operators; the recruits begin to stop swinging both arms in unison. Milestones of the first week go by; the Sergeants' social, the Subalterns' party, the first all-night exercise, the all ranks' dance. Then the Honorary Colonel's parade, when **Brigadier Claude Fairweather** inspects his Regiment. Group photographs, the Band beats Retreat and finally the Officers' dinner. The Group Commander **Brigadier James Jackson** arrives.

Some horrors . . .

A mystery virus strikes 18; the doctor is delighted and the Commanding Officer worried. Subalterns discover that the night life runs into the 6 a.m. drill parades. Tonsilitis, some compassionate cases. What has been forgotten for the exercise next week? The pace is hot, not enough sleep, the Adjutant asks, "Is it always like this?"

The day off

Then—blissfully, the day off. Some go to Le Touquet, to Hastings, to London, to join the hippies on the Isle of Wight. Some, like the Commanding Officer, lock the door and go to bed.

The exercise begins

We wanted to practise Commcen working with Commheads deployed; we did not have the equipment for a systems control, so in true volunteer fashion **Captain Gordon Smith,** our T.O.T., built one—then another; we had two Commcens. Sounds so easy, but it was six months' hard weekend work. So, two Commcens and five Commheads deployed from the white cliffs of Dover around a 25-mile radius; gaily they leapfrogged from one position to another. During the 72 hours that the exercise was live, 1,100 messages were transmitted over the system. The T.O.T. stopped twitching—the Commcen operators visibly grew four inches and the Commanding Officer went back to bed.

C.I.G.S. Designate looks in

The bull at Commcen O looked fixedly at the two helicopters fluttering down and wondered if he was expected to do something about them. Four stars glisten from the first helicopter and **General Sir Michael Carver** stepped out for a whirlwind tour. He meets and talks to the volunteers—**Sergeant Watson** and his W.R.A.C. (V) daughter; **Mr. and Mrs. Egan,** both Corporals, from 49 Squadron. He talks to **Captain Jack Raw,** who has served in the Navy, Army, Air Force, marine section and observer corps, some simultaneously.

The exercise ends

We all go back to Lydd Camp and prepare for the long trek back to the North East. The Commanding Officer addresses the Regiment; 500 volunteers are told they have done well. The recruits' pass-off parade goes well — the best recruit, **Signalman H. S. Penman,** proudly clutches his silver cup. End-of-term parties; last-minute repairs by the L.A.D.; some W.R.A.C. cry and don't want to go home. **Staff Sergeant Bent** has his moustache shaved off again. The vehicles start rolling out of camp; a Regiment breaks up until next year.

55 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) Liverpool

(Courtesy S. Jardine, 61 East Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset.
Major-General Bredin inspects the TAVR Guard of Honour which consisted of: Corporal Wade, Signalman Aspinall, Signalman Jackson and Signalman Hagan

Catching up on the news

AFTER almost a year of silence we will attempt to bring our readers up to date. To start with we have now at long last been given a role, an establishment and brought in from out of the cold.

The Squadron is now responsible for the provision of communication to 2 Transport Brigade Group, and is placed under 1 Signal Group for all training and mobilisation directives. However, Squadron Headquarters at Liverpool is under command of 11 Signal Group (V) for all administrative and T & AVR matters. The three Troops are now located at Cardiff, Ashton-upon-Lyne and Liverpool.

Recruiting

The Squadron is 40% over establishment, and achieved a most successful recruiting campaign at Ashton-under-Lyne. The Squadron moved into the town centre under police escort, and established a Signal Command Post outside the Town Hall. This location was guarded by a detachment of the Lancastrian Volunteers, in true Ulster style. Field cooking was carried out in the market square and communications established to civil police headquarters in Liverpool.

Awards

Congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Bell** on receiving the award of the B.E.M., presented by **Major-General H. E. N. Bredin, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,** Director, Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, during the Squadron's annual camp at Weymouth.

Sight and Sound Courses

The Squadron has made much use of Sight and Sound Courses to improve commcen operators' skills. These courses are held in the evenings and students attend for twelve consecutive nights in their own time, attaining an average speed of 22 words per minute.

Exercises

In addition to our annual camp the Squadron has been tasked this year with a major exercise—namely Crystal Palace —which is a 3 Divisional exercise in September/October. We will for the first time be testing the Squadron's skill and training to the full.

Departures and arrivals

We welcome **Major Jerry Cox** from Singapore vice **Major Geoffrey Jenkins** who leaves us for the wintery wilds of Canada. Farewell and good luck to **Staff Sergeant Bell** who is leaving the service—and is now looking for the promised land! To fill the gaps we welcome **S.S.M. Birtles, Staff Sergeant Lock** and **F. of S. Coley.**

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Sport

Corps Canoeists continue in winning vein

After their outstanding successes in the B.A.O.R. Long Distance Championships and the 1970 Liffey Descent Canoe Meeting in Eire, Corps canoeists continue to sweep aside all opposition. In the 1970 Army Canoe Championships in sprint and long distance racing, held at Nottingham in September, the Corps Canoe Club, based at Blandford, won all the major trophies, beating their main rivals 63 R.C.T. into second place. Trophies won include:

The Army Canoe Union Sprint Championships Team Trophy; Army Canoe Union Long Distance Team Trophy; and the Class 2 (K2) Paddler's Trophy.

Now 10 members of the Corps have been selected to represent the Army in the 1970 Inter-Services' Canoe Championships against the Royal Navy (including Royal Marines) and the Royal Air Force. The ten chosen are:

Lieutenant M. E. Harrison, Royal Signals, School of Signals; **Sergeant M. A. Brett,** School of Signals; **Sergeant J. W. Cornforth,** 24th Regiment; **Corporal M. J. Bull,** 30th Regiment; **Corporal V. E. Bingham,** 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment; **Lance-Corporal R. G. Story,** School of Signals; **Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow,** School of Signals; **Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink,** School of Signals; **Lance-Corporal A. Robinson,** 30th Regiment; **Lance-Corporal S. H. W. Hebdon,** 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment.

Royal Signals Baltic Regatta 1970

The Royal Corps of Signals British Army of the Rhine held their annual Baltic Regatta at the British Kiel Yacht Club in North Germany from 25th to 27th August. Signal Units from all areas of B.A.O.R. competed in two classes, Cutlass class and Danboat class. The weather was very good with blue skies and plenty of sunshine, but the winds were light and variable, much to the disappointment of the yachtsmen who had hoped for plenty of wind.

Crews arrived at Kiel on the afternoon of Tuesday, 25th August, and went aboard their yachts. They were to cook, eat and sleep on board during the regatta.

A very lively scene was observed as skippers checked out their boats, briefed their crews, and generally made everything 'ship shape and *Bristol* fashion!'

Little Wind and navigation lights

Wednesday, 26th August, dawned with sunshine and a steady barometer—but light winds of force 2/3 only. Race 1 was well out to Kiel Fjord racing along a circuit around the main Kiel marker buoys. Cutlass class started first, and were followed ten minutes later by the Dan Boats. The Commodore R.S.Y.C. (B.A.O.R.), **Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.,** followed the race from the Royal Signals yacht *Petasus*, which is permanently based at B.K.Y.C., Kiel. The race passed uneventfully, and was comfortably won by a 7th Signal Regiment crew skippered by **Staff Sergeant Kitchen.** Race 2 in the afternoon proved to be very dull indeed. The wind dropped to almost dead calm, and several yachts were towed back to B.K.Y.C. having retired before completing the course because time was running out. Navigation lights were necessary at the latter stages of this race, which was again won by **Staff Sergeant Kitchen,** who seemed to find winds which just did not exist for the rest of the boats! So two up to 7th Signal Regiment!

Nearly a write-off

Thursday, 27th August, was nearly a disaster. The regatta secretary, **Major A. J. Harrison,** was up at 0.600 hrs. viewing the weather and reading the barometer. No wind, the sea looking like a millpond, and light mist hanging over the Keil Fjord with the barometer steady as a rock, set fair. The start of Race 3 was delayed an hour, then another half-hour, and still no wind. The Commodore went out into the Fjord and set a very simple course using two marker buoys, but even this was wishful thinking. The Secretary took the motorboat out to the harbour mouth to see if any wind was by chance blowing there but started to return quite disappointingly. Suddenly a light breeze came up, and we were in business! The start was announced and boats quickly slipped their moorings heading eagerly for the start line. The Cutlass class got away very nicely, and then the Dan Boats started. Just as suddenly as it appeared so the light breeze disappeared! It took an age for the Dan Boats to make the first buoy, and then just as they rounded it, the breeze came up and all the boats were away. The Cutlass class progressed steadily and 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment led the field with **Staff Sergeant Kitchen** chasing **Corporal Docherty** for some time. Slowly 7th Signal Regiment caught up and on the final leg to the finish line 1st Div. H.Q. & Signal Regiment were lying a close second. That was how they finished too! 7th Signal Regiment and **Staff Sergeant Kitchen** were the clear winners of the Regatta. In the Dan Boat class, the main struggle for supremacy occurred in this last race. Three teams had equal points but as the last race counted for final positions, 20th Armd. Bde. H.Q. & Signal Squadron, skippered by **Major 'Paddy' Verdon,** took first place in the Dan class. Second in the Cutlass class was 21st Signal Regiment skippered by **Lieutenant G. Davies.** Second in the Dan class was 22nd Signal Regiment skippered by **Lieutenant J. Rutherford.**

Prizes were presented by **Mrs. E. J. Bardell,** wife of the Commodore, who had also assisted in starting and finishing procedures from the committee boat throughout the regatta.

WINNERS AT THE CORPS BALTIC REGATTA
Left to right: Lieutenant Gordon Davies, 21st Regiment, 2nd in the 'Cutlas' class. Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Kitchen, 7th Regiment, winner of 'Cutlas' class, and overall winning skipper with the telescope. Major Paddy Verdon, 20th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, winner of 'Dan Boat' class. Lieutenant John Rutherford 22nd Regiment, 2nd 'Dan Boat' class

A popular win

The overall winning skipper, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Kitchen,** 7th Signal Regiment, was presented with the Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) Telescope for his achievements. Congratulations from all competitors on a record three 'firsts' in the Cutlass class races.

A very enjoyable sail, notwithstanding the light winds. Baltic Regatta 1971 is already being planned, probably as a *three-day* event next year.

Royal Signals v 90 (Signals) Group R.A.F. Annual Games Tourney

THIS year it was the turn of the R.A.F. to act as hosts for this annual fixture. R.A.F. Digby was selected by the A.O.C. 90 (Signals) Group as the host station, and a splendid choice it turned out to be.

Glorious weather, excellent arrangements and almost overwhelming hospitality by all ranks made a memorable two days for all who were there. The A.O.C., **Air Vice-Marshal L. H. Moulton, D.F.C.,** and A.C.D.S. (Signals) **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** and their wives were present and enjoyed an exciting day's sport in the most pleasant surroundings.

In thanking **Wing-Commander R. Jackson** and the R.A.F. hosts, **Brigadier P. A. M. Tighe,** Chairman of the Royal Signals Games Club invited all present to assemble at Catterick in 1971 to renew this splendid rivalry with 90 (Signals) Group. The Training Brigade will be on their mettle to measure up to R.A.F. Digby's kindness and hospitality.

The results of the various sports were as follows:

Cricket.—Match drawn. Royal Signals 183 for 8 declared. 90 (Signals) Group 166 for 9.

Swimming.—Royal Signals won by 54 points to 47 points.

Water Polo.—90 (Signals) Group won by 12—7.

Tennis.—90 (Signals) Group won by 5 matches to 4.

Golf.—Royal Signals won by 7½ matches to 4½.

THE CORPS LATEST ACQUISITION — THE YACHT "MHAIRI"

Just over two and a half years ago the yacht 'CITO,' out of Famagusta, was lost off Salamis. Efforts were immediately made to acquire a replacement for the old thirty square, and so continue to represent the Corps in the Near East. However, it soon became very apparent that yachts in the Mediterranean were either very expensive or not for sale. Patience was at last rewarded. With a grant from the R.S.Y.C., and loans from the G.O.C. and Commander 3 Signal Group coupled with a great deal of personal help from the Commander, Colonel D. L. Sylvester-Bradley, and the Commanding Officer, 9th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel A.W. McL.McKinnon, a suitable yacht was purchased in June of this year.

The MHAIRI was laying at Akrotiri, a very beautiful 3½ ton glass fibre Vivacity class yacht, and three lucky members of 9th Signal Regiment were chosen to sail her to her new home port of Famagusta They were: Major Lawrie Moran, Skipper; Captain John Francis, 1st Crew Member and Staff-Sergeant Rusty Rosson, 2nd Crew Member

Unfortunately pressure on space prevents the publication of a detailed description of the voyage from Akrotiri to Famagusta.

Hockey — late news

In their first representative match of the season, the Corps beat the Thistles 1—0. It is believed that this is the first time that the Corps have managed to beat this strong team. Goal-scorer for the Corps, **Second-Lieutenant Willie Brewen.**

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A Detachment of AMF Troop 30th Signal Regiment visit 242 Signal Squadron, Edinburgh

242 Signal Squadron were pleased to welcome, from Blandford, members of 30th Signal Regiment, during July. Attached for the period of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, **Lieutenant Ian Morris's** Troop of 40 soldiers, with vehicles, made an impressive entry to the rather quiet and peaceful surroundings of H.Q., Scotland.

The 20 W.R.A.C. of 242 Signal Squadron, although slightly overcome by such rare male talent appearing on the scene, soon found their feet and set about entertaining the Troop as best they could! NAAFI takings improved considerably and impromptu parties flourished. A hockey match was arranged and, with the rain lifting shortly before the bully-off, an exciting match ensued. At half-time the girls were complaining of exhaustion, but . . . at full-time the men were complaining of bruises and cracks! Score? Still not known.

On 16th July, the opening day of the Commonwealth Games, **Lieutenant Ruth Pearse,** of 242 Signal Squadron, was due to take part in the relay run of the Queen's Message towards its destination at the Stadium. The venue for her section of the relay was the square in Linlithgow—the last town en route before the gold baton reached Edinburgh. At 14.30 hours, the residents of Linlithgow, waiting in the square to see the gold baton handed over, were surprised to see the arrival of the Signals Land Rovers, soldiers and 'girls in green.' The Provost handed over the baton and **Lieutenant Pearse was** given an encouraging send-off by the locals and members of A F(L) and 242 Squadron.

After a final fling, on 25th July, when AMF(L) threw a highly-successful all ranks' dance, the Troop departed from H.Q., Scotland, leaving a trail of sorrowful girls and once again a quiet camp.

Posting applications to the south of England have since been many, but for those of us that are still in Scotland, we would like to say thank you to **Lieutenant Morris** and his Troop for being such pleasant visitors.

A PROUD MOMENT FOR LIEUTENANT RUTH

Lieutenant Ruth Pearse, W.R.A.C. receiving the baton carrying the Queen's Message for the Commonwealth Games from the Lord Provost of Linlithgow. O.C. 242 Signal Squadron, Major J. Fleming stands on the left

Corps Volunteers are big attraction at British Legion Fete

The Coltishall and District British Legion and Women's Section (Norfolk) preparing for their summer fete held on the banks of the River Bure—always a big attraction locally—hit upon the idea of inviting Corps T.A.V.R. detachments. The fete was held on the summer bank holiday at the end of August and detachments of 755 and 707 Control Centre Troops of 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V), commanded by **Captain D. Fuller,** arrived from Ipswich and **Second-Lieutenant M. E. Sexton** brought in a contingent from Norwich.

The four shining Land Rovers, all complete with varying equipment and trailers, were lined up along the river bank under a flag of the T.A.V.R. and next to sign boards showing the titles of the Troops and Regiment.

Hundreds of visitors, both off the river and locals and holidaymakers, wended their way through the stalls to look at the equipment displayed—a show of understandable telecommunication parts such as field telephones and teleprinters together with weapons old and new. It was pleasing to note that operators used the site and time available to run a radio morse exercise. During the hours that the volunteers were in attendance they were never without a bustle of visitors to their site. One interesting sight was the local 'rockers' being shown how to fix a bayonet to a rifle by a very smart Signalman who retained a sense of dignity which passed itself on to the enquirers. The mingling of 'Signalmen' of all ranks with the visitors gave rise to the expression in the vein of, "Oh good, the T.A. still exists, that's fine, thought it had finished," which idea was soon cheerfully dispelled.

An interesting point was that in order to reach the younger element two Lance-Corporals in the Norfolk Artillery A.C.F., a neighbouring unit in the Norwich T.A.V.R. Centre, came along and demonstrated weapons to the children in fine style, a good effort by two smart young men.

The British Legion members were very pleased to have these Troops with them and the old Signalmen amongst them were extremely proud of them, especially as they had all given up their holiday to come from all over East Anglia. These officers and men gave the Corps and Reserve Army a renewed good name.

F.P.J.E.

Obituary

W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. N. FORSTER

A correspondent writes:

It is with great sorrow that we announce the tragic death of W.O.II (Y. of S.) R. N. Forster, of the School of Signals.

He died on 28th August in hospital as a result of injuries received on the 22nd when he was hit by a car during a shopping expedition with his wife and two daughters.

A requiem mass on Friday, 4th September, at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Garrison Church preceded the interment with full military honours at Tidworth Military Cemetery.

He arrived at the School in April, 1968, when he first joined the Trials Squadron. There, he happily combined the duties of Yeoman with those of Squadron Sergeant Major. After almost two years he was then transferred to the Mecca of Yeoman, Traffic Group. He was a rugby player, and later a referee of great ability. He played, umpired and coached basketball. He was a jazz connoisseur and founder member of the Blandford Camp Music Club.

In the military sphere his skill, patience, tact and loyalty have ensured that he will be remembered by all with whom he served. In his other activities his meticulous attention to detail combined with his absolute enthusiasm for whatever he undertook made his every appearance, whether as player, official or spectator, a joy to watch.

We will miss him and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Ling, and his children Andrew, Jean and Lee.

MAJOR J. H. A. PATTON, M.B.E., M.C., T.D.

It is with regret that THE WIRE has to record the death of Major J. H. A. Patton at the age of 78. After a distinguished Army career Major Patton was the first member to be awarded Honour Membership of the Association for his exceptional service to the Corps and the Northern Ireland Branch of the Association.

Major Patton's Army service went back to World War I and included service with the Royal Irish Rifles and the Royal Engineers Telegraph Battalion. He won the M.C. for heroism in France. After the war he spent nearly 36 years as a member of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners as Chief Engineer. With the second World War he was back in uniform serving with Royal Signals. He received the M.B.E. in 1952.

Later as a founder member of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Association he filled the office of Chairman with distinction. Members of his committee were always welcome at his Belfast home for meetings and he was ever ready to accommodate Royal Signals T.A. units on his farm at Ballykelly when on weekend training. It is understood that he had been awarded three bars to his T.D.

Two brothers survive him to whom sympathy is expressed.

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Recruitment Officer (CY-OP 6),
Government Communications Headquarters,
Room A/1105,
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Priors Road,
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Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone : Cheltenham 21491
Ext. 2270

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Application forms and further particulars from:

Recruitment Officer (TRO 6), Government Communications Headquarters,
Oakley, Priors Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos. GL52 5AJ.
Telephone No. Cheltenham 21492 Ext. 2270.

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November-December 1970

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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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 1970

Vol. 24 *(New Series)* **No. 11**

Editorial

Our Cover Picture

Our cover picture shows a group of five enterprising young men. They are (left to right): **Signalmen Sargeant, Morgan, Catley, Lynn** and **Roope.** At the instigation of **Signalman 'Lofty' Morgan** (he is a mountaineering enthusiast) they decided to have a go at mountain walking and rock climbing. Under his supervision and direction they quickly found some mountains and they can be seen posing in Alpine surroundings prior to getting down to some serious climbing. Also in the party were **Corporal Ted Farminger** (i/c Administration) and **Signalman 'Jock' Thompson** who were unable to be present at the time of the photograph.

Although their activities were somewhat inhibited by bad weather they learned a lot and reached the summit of the Geiss Alp—and, of course, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Corps with its varied selection of world-wide postings offers unrivalled opportunities to get out and about and do things, for those who are prepared to exert a little effort. It is good to see soldiers from the 22nd Regiment putting this into practice. May many others follow their example.

That Christmas Present Problem

Christmas draws near and we feel that it might be appropriate to remind our readers that there is available here at Association Headquarters a considerable variety of Corps goods **which may well provide the answer to your Christmas present problem.**

The following goods are on sale:—

Corps Ties—Woollen	58p	(11/6)
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Small (each)	8p	(1/8)
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Motor Cycle Badges (enamelled in Corps Colours)	75p	(15/–)
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Necklaces with embossed "Jimmy" Pendant	25p	(5/–)
Bow Ties, Silk, Adjustable, Corps Colours	£1.50	(30/–)
New L.P. Record of Corps Band (Stereo, mono compatible) (Association Members and Contributors to Day's Pay Scheme only)	£1.25	(25/–)
New style Corps diary (see Oct./Nov. WIRE for details)	30p	(6/–)
Old style wallets without inserts	60p	(12/–)

Cash with order. Above quoted prices include postage.

Note—*Please state which type is required when ordering.
†With "Royal Corps of Signals" scroll, or scroll left blank.

From our "In" Tray

FOR SPECIAL NOTE

MORE CORPS SPORTING SUCCESSES

Keeping up the splendid 1970 record we are happy to report that at the Army major units orienteering team championships, held on 26th October, out of over 20 teams competing, 21st Signal Regiment came second and 7th Signal Regiment fourth.

Corporal Ray Storer, of the 21st Signal Regiment, was the third individual home of the large field competing.

* * *

BIATHLON

We hear that Signalman Elliott, of 7th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron, is doing very well at biathlon training and it is hoped he will be entered for the world championship (Junior Class) next March.

* * *

ROYAL SIGNALS BLUE PULLOVERS

Readers are advised NOT to purchase the pullovers as advertised on page 472 of the October/November 'Wire' as it has now come to light that they do not conform with the laid-down Corps pattern.

* * *

VACANCY AT ASSOCIATION H.Q.

Are you leaving the Corps shortly? Why not keep in touch by taking a job here at Association H.Q.

A vacancy exists in our accounts office. Common-sense and modest typing ability is all that is required. Salary starts at £1,000 p.a.

Major 'Wilbur' Wright

Sir,

I must thank you for the excellent despatch service. As usual, my copy of THE WIRE arrived here within a day or so of publication, and I was able to lose myself in Corps matters for an hour or two.

On page 416 September/October WIRE there is a reference to my retirement. Would you be kind enough to publish a correction? The 'man' mentioned is Major 'Wilbur' Wright, M.B.E. I, like many others, was rechristened' on entering the Army, and 'Wilbur' stuck with me for my 33 years' service.

With regard the Japanese officer's sword. I'm afraid that its history is rather mundane. It was handed over at the official end of war surrender in Rangoon, and I, being employed in the H.Q. at the time, got my hands on it. There were quite a few handed over, but the people who deserved them were of course at that time coming out of the prison camps. Its proper place is in a Mess, where it serves as a reminder to those who today don't realise the gruesome nature of war.

With these really cheerful remarks I say adieu!

Yours sincerely,

'Wilbur' Wright.

8203 Oberaudorf am Inn,
Landhaus Magdalena.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will be held at 10.30 hours on Tuesday, 12th January, 1971, in Conference Room 254 (second floor) of the Old War Office Building. All members are invited to attend. Will those wishing to do so please notify the Hon. Secretary, Signals 35b, Old War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1 (Tel. ext. no. 0172).

Members will also be interested to know that the International Boat Show at Earls Court is from 6th to 16th January, 1971.

Recruiting is our Business

C.S.O. Western Command Recruiting Conference

'Recruiting Is Our Business' was the motto when the Royal Signals Recruiters of Western Command gathered at Saighton Camp to air their views on how to improve our percentage of the Army intake (the tone was set by **Sergeant W. Gray,** from Rhyl, who rang to say he would be a little late as he was busy enlisting two recruits!).

Chaired by C.S.O. Western Command and supported by O.C. 241 Signal Squadron, **W.O.II D. Abercrombie** (Regimental Recruiting Team), **Lieutenant S. C. Moralee** and **Sergeant K. Rogers,** of 59 A.Y.T., discussion was lively, frank and of great value. It was clear that we have an uphill struggle on our hands to get the men we need, but a number of useful pointers came out which could ease the Recruiter's task. **W.O.I V. A. Vallor,** our Army Recruiter at Liverpool, provided the voice of experience, and **Sergeant Rushton,** who nears the end of his tour at Manchester, was able to report that he is over his target of 200 during his two-year tour there. It was very clear that there is no lack of enthusiasm or sense of purpose.

The meeting concluded with a very fine curry lunch provided under the auspices of **WO.I A. A. Hopewell,** the Garrison Sergeant Major, who was heard to remark, "If they haven't got fire in their bellies already—this ought to do the trick."

The photograph shows those who attended.

Front row, left to right: Major R. C. Bryson, Major E. J. Buirski, W.O.I V. A. Vallor, Colonel T. H. C. Grigg, W.O.I (G.S.M.) A. A. Hopewell, Lieutenant S. C. Moralee, W.O.I (S.C.) R. Jones
Middle row, left to right: Sergeant J. Gledhill, Sergeant D. Thomas, Sergeant S. J. Rushton, Staff-Sergeant H. Price, Sergeant R. While
Back row, left to right: W.O.II D. Abercrombie, Sergeant R. K. Hopwood, Sergeant K. Rogers, Sergeant R. Hughes, Sergeant W. Gray

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during September:

	£	s.	d.
Officer Commanding, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)	91	11	3
Officer Commanding, 16th Regiment	33	4	8
Officer Commanding, Royal Signals Display Team, for Basingstoke Carnival Committee	10	0	0
Hon. Secretary, Birmingham Branch, Royal Signals Association	3	0	0
R. J. Pegg, Esq.	4	1	0
Major-General R. F. B. Naylor, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. ...	2	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. L. Gordon, C.B.E., M.C.	1	11	6
G. W. Cook, Esq.	1	5	0
G. B. Hollings, Esq.		14	0
Various small donations		19	4
Total ...	£148	6	9

Colonel G. S. H. Dicker, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., F.C.A.

A recent Army Board decision makes it possible to appoint a distinguished civilian as an Honorary Colonel Commandant. We are delighted to announce that **Colonel Geoffrey Dicker** has been appointed our first.

He was Adjutant of 6th Armoured Divisional Signals 1943-45. He was then GSO2 at A.F.H.Q. in Italy. In 1948 he joined the T.A., rising to command 54th (East Anglian) Signal Regiment from 1956-59. He was then deputy commander of 161 Infantry Brigade becoming CSO East Anglian Division/District from 1962-65. He has been Honorary Colonel of his Regiment, an A.D.C. to the Queen and is now chairman of a Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association of East Anglia.

As a civilian he is a Deputy Lieutenant, has been chairman of the Great Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce, is a chartered accountant and a partner in several companies. He is a keen yachtsman.

He has been a member of the Corps Committee since 1964, representing the Reserve Army. In 1969 he accepted the special responsibilities of chairman of the Finance Committee, and we are already benefiting from his guidance.

Award of British Empire Medal

On 25th September **Major-General F. D. King, M.B.E.,** Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science, presented the B.E.M. to **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Waudby** at a ceremony at College Headquarters. The award was made for services with 39 Brigade Signal Squadron during the emergency in Northern Ireland. The citation highly praised **Staff Sergeant Waudby's** outstanding work in maintaining the Brigade Signal equipment, and his energy and resource in mastering completely unknown and poorly documented civilian equipment issued during the emergency. **Staff Sergeant Waudby** worked very long hours (even by Northern Ireland standards) over a considerable period to keep communications going, and it was largely due to his efforts that there was no serious failure in the Brigade Communications while he was there.

Staff Sergeant Waudby, who is the only Royal Signals soldier on the strength of the College, arrived in June to relieve **W.O.I (F. of S.) McKay,** posted to 7th Signal Regiment. He has taken over the running of the Electronics and Guided Weapons Demonstration Hall, and is rapidly widening his technical experience, his main preoccupation being the intricacies of a Swingfire simulator.

Heartiest congratulations to **Staff Sergeant Waudby** on his award, and it is hoped he and his wife will find Shrivenham a pleasant place to be.

Presentation of the B.E.M. to Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) S. Waudby by Major-General F. D. King M.B.E., Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science

A PLEASANT DUTY FOR THE S.O.-in-C.
Major-General Pentreath recently took the Commissioning Ceremony of 52 Course at the W.R.A.C. College, Camberley and afterwards posed with these attractive young ladies. Third from the right is Wendy Le Gassick daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sandy Le Gassick, C.S.O. Scotland

A Credit to his Corps

Below we publish a letter received by Commander Training Brigade from a member of the public. The letter speaks for itself. If the unnamed Lance-Corporal mentioned in this letter should read this, he can very properly take pride in the excellent impression he has given of his Corps to an outside observer.

* *

It has always been my habit on my frequent journeys to and from London to give lifts to hitch-hikers. I have always found them to be very fine types, contrary to the reports on youth, we so often hear today.

Last Sunday, among the many I picked up during the course of my journey, was one of your Corporals, and as a Signal Sergeant of the Royal Artillery during the last war, we found much in common to talk about during the journey.

Unfortunately, my car broke down on the Catterick by-pass, and here your Corporal showed that he was of the right type in every sense of the word. He walked over one mile to the telephone box to ring the R.A.C. night service, and because of their unwillingness to look after me, walked all the way back to tell me about it. We returned to the telephone box where I arranged transport from Sunderland to collect me, and then he again rang the R.A.C. night service in Catterick, and in words so wonderfully reminiscent of my own days as an N.C.O., told them exactly what he thought about them.

I am writing really to say that the Royal Corps of Signals can always be proud, as I always knew it was, of its soldiers, especially of one Lance-Corporal whose name I do not know.

Story of a Chair . . .

Ex-R.S.M. S. A. Rose writes:

During the last war I was the Regimental Sergeant Major of an Army Unit stationed in a small village in Yorkshire.

The late Princess Royal visited the Unit to carry out certain functions, which terminated by taking tea with the officers in their Mess.

That same evening the Sergeants' Mess was holding a dance in the drill hall for the British Red Cross Society. During the evening a scheme was thought out to raise more funds for the Red Cross.

A young soldier was despatched to the Officers' Mess with instructions to obtain the chair which the Princess Royal had sat in. Back came the chair, which was placed in the middle of the dance floor, and a Sergeant was stationed one side of the chair to collect a shilling — or more — from any lady or gentleman, for the privilege of sitting in the chair in which

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Royalty had sat. Another Sergeant was detailed to supervise the queue. This effort raised a sum of £2 or £3.

The chair was returned to the Officers' Mess the next morning, and I was then informed by the head waiter that in the general upset in the Mess by the visit of the Princess Royal, he did not know which particular chair was the one required, so gave the young soldier the first chair at hand.

The head waiter was almost certain it wasn't the right chair!

Royal Signals celebrate in the U.S.A.

The Royal Signals 50th Anniversary celebrations in the United States took place in New Jersey on Saturday, 3rd October. The principal event was a cocktail party held in the Monmouth Room of Gibbs Hall, which is part of the Fort Monmouth Officers' Open Mess.

By the greatest good fortune, it was possible to link the event with the visit of **Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E.,** to the United States on other business. Assisted by **Colonel I. G. Swan,** British Liaison Officer (Signals) of the British Defence Staff, Washington, and his wife, **Marion, General Anderson** received a large number of distinguished U.S. Signal Corps officers and civilians who have had close contact with the Corps over the years.

Their many old friends in the Corps will be glad to know that **Colonel Glenn Waterman,** and his wife **Mavis,** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Bill O'Meara,** who both served in the School of Signals, were able to join with us.

Other hosts included **Colonel S. C. Dare** and **Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. A. Collyer.** A number of retired Royal Signals officers now work in the United States and of these **Colonel Peter Leney, Lieutenant-Colonel 'Paddy' Lyske, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Philp, Major Denis Benson** were able to attend the function and bring with them a welcome spirit of Royal Signals past.

(U.A. Army Photograph)

A group of the senior officers present at the Royal Signals 50th Anniversary Cocktail Party in the United States

Left to right: Colonel I. G. Swan, Brigadier-General R. C. Horne III, C.G., U.S. Signal School, Major-General W. E. Lotz, C.G., U.S. Army Electronics Command, Major-General J. E. Anderson, C.B.E., A.C.S.D. (Signals) M.O.D., Brigadier-General H. W. Rice, U.S. Program/Project Manager, Mallard; Colonel S. C. Dare

Did you ever serve in 19th Signal Regiment?

Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Gilbert, the present C.O., is writing a history of this Regiment before it is disbanded next year. He is having difficulty in obtaining information of the earlier years 1942 onwards.

If you can contribute any details, photographs, etc., *please* make an effort and write to him at 19th Signal Regiment, Changi, c/o G.P.O., Singapore.

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"Drums beating, Bands playing, Bayonets fixed . . ."

A great day for the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V)

ANOTHER page was written into the history of the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) which can trace its origin back to the year 1862. The Regiment was granted the 'Freedom of Entry' to the City of Birmingham on 12th September, by the passing of a Resolution at a City Council meeting in March.

Being a rather widely spread Regiment, the three Squadrons from Shrewsbury, Rugby and Newcastle-under-Lyme spent the night at Sutton Coldfield. The task of feeding, watering and bedding of the 200 personnel fell to **Captain (Q.M.) Bill Jackson** who, with his staff and help from the technicians, mumbling something about an X factor, did a splendid job.

After a very early rise and the normal race-track journey into Birmingham, the Regiment, with representatives of the Old Comrades' Association, assembled in the Town Hall to await the arrival of the main procession. At 11.25 hours the main procession entered the Main Hall and was saluted by a Guard of Honour from the Regiment and a Fanfare of Trumpets by the Corps Band. In the procession were:

Brigadier R. H. Borthwick, Commander 11th Signal Group (Volunteers); **Major-General W. G. S. Mills, C.B.E.,** Commander West Midland District; **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** Master of Signals; **The Reverend B. P. Brownless, M.A., C.F. (V),** Chaplain to the Regiment; **The Right Reverend L. Brown, M.A.,** The Lord Bishop of Birmingham; the Town Clerk (**Mr. T. H. Parkinson, LL.B.**); **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** Honorary Colonel of the Regiment; The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Birmingham (**Alderman Stanley Bleyer**).

Presenting the Deed of Privilege in the Town Hall, the Lord Mayor, **Alderman Stanley Bleyer,** said: "We in the City of Birmingham are aware of the Regiment's long association with the City, and we are proud to acknowledge our debt to you all."

After receiving a magnificent scroll containing the Deed, **Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.,** Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, thanked the Lord Mayor on the Regiment's behalf. A service was held during which the Commanding Officer read the Lesson and the final Blessing was given by the Lord Bishop of Birmingham. This concluded, the Regiment formed up to take advantage of its new right to march through the City of Birmingham with drums beating, bands playing and bayonets fixed. The parade of 350-strong was commanded by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Woodbridge,** Royal Signals, and was composed of the Royal Signals Band, 48, 58, 89 and 95 Signal Squadrons, a detachment of the Women's Royal Army Corps and detachment of Old Comrades. This was followed by the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team leading a section of the units vehicles in a drive past.

Shoppers lining the streets were pleasantly surprised, when the Regiment brightened Birmingham's drizzle, as they smartly marched past the Lord Mayor outside the Council House with drums beating, band playing and bayonets fixed in a blaze of sound and colour.

After the parade, members of the Regiment and their wives were guests of the City Council at a buffet lunch in the Council House.

Colonel F. E. B. Jones, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Honorary Colonel, receives the Deed of Privilege from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham

SCENES FROM THE 35th REGIMENT'S BIG DAY

1. **FORMAL ENTRY. Major-General W. G. S. Mills (District Commander) and Brigadier R. H. Borthwick (Group Commander) lead the formal procession into the Town Hall while the Guard of Honour presents arms**

2. **DRIVE PAST. The line detachment looked very smart as they passed the saluting base outside the Council House.**

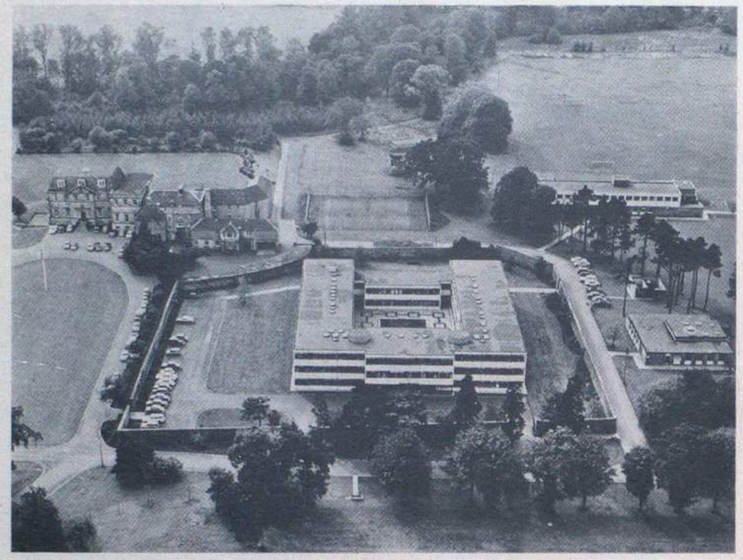
3. **A SALUTE TO THE LORD MAYOR. The marching contingent were a credit to their unit as they gave eyes right at the saluting base**

4. **W.R.A.C. WERE THERE TOO. W.R.A.C. Volunteers catch the eye of the public with their marching and smart turnout**

Second of a series sponsored by H.Q. 2 Signal Group

Communication Centres of the U.K.

H.Q. Scotland (Army)



CRAIGIEHALL

At the left rear the original Craigiehall now the Officers Mess. At the right rear is the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess. At the centre is 'F' block housing the Commcen for H.Q. Scotland (Army

THE Communication Centre for H.Q. Scotland (Army) is located in 'F' Block (a recently constructed building) in the grounds of Craigiehall, approximately seven miles from Edinburgh. The modern offices and the pleasant surroundings are a far cry from those early days in 1947 when the Signal Centre moved into Edinburgh Castle with Headquarters Scottish Command.

The responsibility for staffing the Signal Centre in the Castle was maintained by Scottish Command Signal Regiment until 1959 when the Regiment was disbanded and 242 Signal Squadron was formed.

In 1956 the Signal Office moved from Edinburgh Castle to Craigiehall when it was sited in an old Artillery concrete bunker and was to remain until February this year when it moved into its present home in 'F' Block.

A small Communication Centre remained at Edinburgh Castle serving Regimental Pay Office, Edinburgh, until August this year when it finally closed down.

As a point of interest Craigiehall, which can be seen in the aerial photograph, was chosen as the place for the German Forces in Norway to sign the surrender treaty. Rudolph Hess also visited Craigiehall after landing in Scotland in 1940.

The Communication Centre in Craigiehall operates an automatic exchange with satellite equipment still in the Castle serving Lowland Area and H.Q. The Scottish Division.

Edinburgh military exchange located in "F" block is manned by an efficient team of W.R.A.C. operators. Pictured are *left to right:* Private Winstanley, Corporal Reynolds (supervising) and Private Pickering

Unusual Jobs! Faraway Places!

The Corps finds itself in Jordan

For Service communicators, a job may come up at any time in any part of the world. The Corps, with well-trained soldiers and modern equipment, ready to move at short notice, is thoroughly capable of dealing with random calls on its services. Jordan has proved to be just such a case, where the humanitarian efforts of both the International and National Red Cross could not be really effective without a sound communications back-up. So once again, the Corps steps in to perform an unusual job in a faraway place.

The story starts in the U.K. where Captain Bob Middleton, of 14th Signal Regiment, describes how his tour of duty as Orderly Officer suddenly became rather lively:

"I was sitting in the Officers' Mess, as Orderly Officer on Sunday, 20th September. It was about 14.20, the football match on ITV had just started, the telephone rang, a voice at the other end said: 'Sir, I have been asked to ask you to stay near the phone. Group have just been called to the operations room and should be back soon with something for you.'

I sat. An hour later I rang 1 Signal Group and asked if I should still sit there; the same voice said, 'Yes.' I continued to sit. At 16.40 the phone rang again. 'You will organise the Spearhead D13 detachment and have them ready to fly to Cyprus tomorrow.'

I stopped sitting.

With the aid of a telephone, the duty driver and the local civilian police, the whole Spearheard detachment was called in.

It is impossible to say who arrived at Norton Barracks first but **Sergeant Keith Barsby** perhaps deserves a mention—he drove from West Somerset to Worcester in less than three hours boasting that the police didn't even see him, let alone stop him. By 8 o'clock the whole detachment was in camp and working hard to check and pack their gear.

F. of S. Pat Hodgson was moving quietly around making sure his sets and their spares were all there and working; deciding what he had to take and what he could leave behind.

A word here about the reaction from 27th Regiment, R.C.T. The log only mentions them three times:

First at 17.46. 2 x 10-ton flatbeds 27 R.C.T. ordered and being arranged. To arrive here soonest.

Second at 19.15. 2 x 10-ton flatbeds on their way. E.T.A. 22.15.

Third at 22.25. 2 x 10-ton flatbeds here.

They are stationed at Bulford and Worcester is about 100 miles away—pretty good going.

At 23.30 the detachment commander was able to report that with the exception of the last-minute loading of personal kit and rations the detachment was ready to move.

We all had some sleep.

Next day at 09.15 the M.C.C.P. team arrived and started to check the detachment's readiness for an air move.

At 11.30 the log recalls that the detachment moved out of Norton Barracks, Worcester, heading for R.A.F. Fairford.

It is interesting here perhaps to list one or two facts:

'Shoveller' is an operation in which the Army, sponsored by the Red Cross, is giving medical aid to Jordan. This Regiment is providing the rear link communications for the medical staff. We are using a D13/R234 air portable station mounted in Aircon B containers.

Other members of the detachment are: **Captain Tim Hallchurch, Sergeant Chas. Bonwick, Corporal Jim Lees, Corporal 'Taff' Sobey, Lance-Corporal Bob Brebner, Lance-Corporal Ray Dudding, Lance-Corporal Eric Pickering, Lance-Corporal Sid Blow.**

They were, as the Spearhead detachment, already at 72-hours' notice but in fact moved out of camp in 19 hours 10 minutes."

Regimental Editor's note: As this report seems to have been written at about the same speed as the operation was mounted perhaps a word or two of explanation would not be amiss.

This Regiment is organised into self-contained air portable radio detachments. These detachments are always deployed with a H.Q. or unit that is responsible for the administrative support of the detachment. The detachments do not have any transport but are moved to the airfield of embarkation by the Royal Corps of Transport of Strategic Command—normally 27th Regiment — who as always, and as **Captain Middleton** reports, supported us magnificently on this occasion.

To clear any doubt about the location of the detachment it was first flown to Cyprus where after a few days awaiting the (presumably) political decision to move was sent into Jordan where, at the time of writing these notes, it is producing excellent communications for 2nd Field Ambulance.

Meanwhile the 30th Regiment in Blandford Camp were also having a busy time as their 'Wire' correspondent reports:

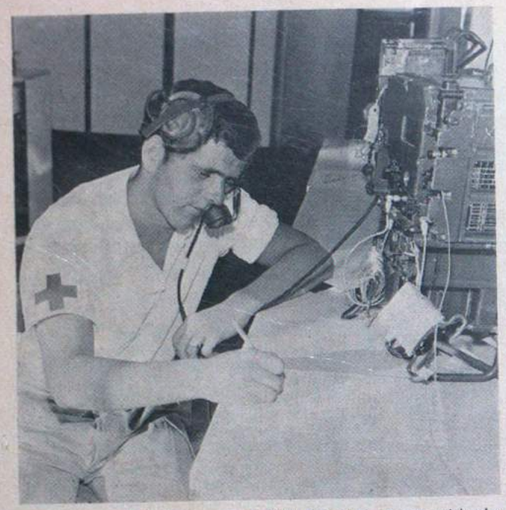
"The first indications that we were about to be alerted for an emergency operation in Jordan came through to Blandford as we were enjoying the Corps Band during a public concert in the local High School. Our thoughts were far removed from the crisis which had developed in Amman and the strife that was to follow in that city besieged by the Palestinian guerillas. From midnight the R.H.Q. Mounting Centre, 1 Squadron, Q.M.s and T.O.T. workshop became centres of activity as the detachment of one officer and 12 operators were stood-to during the early hours of the morning.

The equipment was quickly assembled, checked out and the six SR A13 put through the T.M. workshop before being finally packed and loaded. The 1 Squadron detachment consisting of **Lieutenant Chris Grant, Sergeant Leslie Jackson, Corporals George Dickson, John Collins, John Clinton, Lance-Corporals Bernie Carr, Gerry Holverson, Ernie Gough, Bob Gunter, Pat Fox, Bill Stewart** and **Signalmen 'Dinger' Thursfield** and **Derek McLennan** having had an early breakfast, pay and a medical check-out, were given a short brief by the Commanding Officer for their move to Cyprus. The detachment left Blandford eight hours after the initial warning and within 12 hours were on their way to R.A.F. Akrotiri. In Cyprus the detachment came under command 3 Signal Group and whilst staging at R.A.F. Akrotiri were looked after by members of 261 Signal Squadron Airfield Troop."

The Troops and the equipment are committed and the next account comes in the form of a letter from Captain Tim Hallchurch, of 14th Regiment, now in Jordan, and Officer i/c the various Corps detachments in that country.

"For the first time for nearly a week I have got time to sit down and let you know what is going on.

After many 'gos' and 'no gos' in Cyprus at 18.00 hours on Tuesday last we got the order to move at 02.00 on the Wednesday morning (30th September). I spent all night working on lists and manifests for the whole force while **Foreman Hodson** supervised the loading. Prior to this we were all enrolled as members of the British Red Cross and were issued with armbands and badges. All our vehicles, including the cabins, were painted white and have red crosses on them (how we are going to get them green again I don't know). The Operation 'Shoveller' force has now been called 'Ferrieforce' after **Colonel Ferrie,** the Commander. When we arrived in Jordan on 30th September at about 16.00 (by Hercules aircraft) we were escorted to the unfinished shell of the King Hussein hospital where we proceeded to set up.



Lance-Corporal 'Taff' Gunter of 30th Signal Regiment with the British Medical team in Jordan, receives a message from another Red Cross Hospital

It was nearly midnight before all the cabins got here, but we were on the air 07.30 local next morning. Since then, because of the large Royal Signals commitment we have combined into one unit, under me, the 30th Regiment and 262 Signal Squadron personnel and equipment. Apart from the D13 rear link, the Signals element of ourselves plus 21 others with 2 x FFR C11 detachments and 6 A13 provide the communications for all the International Committee of the Red Cross (I.C.R.C.). This includes links between the I.C.R.C., German hospital, Ashrafnya hospital (Egyptian staff), airfield and ourselves. We are sharing the same locations with the U.S. Army Hospital which is about the same size as ours. We have also set up a 40/160 line exchange within the hospital with lines on the Jordanian Army (when it works!) and U.S. Army networks. In addition to the above we also send detachments to the French and Italian contingents when necessary.

As usual Royal Signals have provided lots of the amenities for the Hospital that require initiative and managed to get some beer from the Jordanian Army. I think I am the only person on the Hospital who has organised any Jordanian currency. We have all been working 18 hours a day since we arrived, but now we are set up things should quieten down a little.

The detachment have been excellent and are very popular around the hospital and have done many wiring jobs around the place. We have been working with the Americans quite a lot. They used our 'punch up' position until they got an extra printer, while we used their oil until ours arrived.

We get a daily Hercules or Argosy from Cyprus where the organisation must be overworked for so far we have had no NAAFI supplies or newspapers and are very short on P.O.L. Perhaps today's flight will have most of these things on board.

The King Hussein Hospital is situated about eight miles in a straight line N.W. from the centre of Amman; it is due for completion next August. It is very big and modern and provides plenty of room for the field hospital to set up in. There is water and drains, but the water is not drinkable and is only available from certain taps. The water we use comes from the U.S. purification plant. There is, of course, no power—we use the generators—no furniture, etc., and we are living officially under field conditions.

From the hospital on a clear day one can see the Dead Sea and Jerusalem beyond. It is about 3,000 feet up with a marvellous view.

"OK, SARG! YOUR TURN TO BE NURSE"

(Courtesy 1 Squadron, 30th Regiment)

I am writing this letter on the roof in the sun (it must be about 75°). The nights are cool but pleasant (no sweater needed as yet). From the roof I can see at least 3 Squadrons of Jordanian Army Centurion tanks that surround us and the Army are everywhere in the area. I have been into the worst areas of Amman, the Ashrafaya Hospital is very badly damaged (it was in Fadayeen territory) with shell and bullet holes everywhere, and not a window remaining. There is blood everywhere, but the dead have mostly been buried and the wounded moved to other hospitals. In the centre of the city there are burned-out cars and buses everywhere in certain areas (although the northern suburbs are mainly untouched) and yesterday we almost ran over a human leg lying in the road.

While with one of the FFR Land Rovers yesterday (with red cross flag, etc.) a lorry came up to us with three young boys who had just been injured by a bomb. One was dead, but we rushed the other two back here and they will be O.K. now that the shrapnel has been pulled out. None of us any longer feel squeamish at the sight of blood. Last night I held the plasma equipment while a bullet was removed from a stomach.

The British hospital holds 48 patients at the moment, mostly serious surgical cases, but has treated many hundred outpatients. The number of serious casualties held in known hospitals in the Amman area is about 2,200, there have been hundreds or possibly thousands treated and sent home. The dead so far counted number about 780, but there may be more under ruins or in burned-out vehicles. There is no doubt, the Jordanian Army were certainly very tough and shot at anything that moved, or at any building they fancied as a target. All is now very quiet, the airport is open and cars and some buses are on the roads. A few shops are open, but not much in them. One can buy some fruit on the side of the road.

It is hard to guess how long we will be here, it must be at least a month more because the patients will be here that long. There are many more casualties in the North that are without treatment and there is a danger of disease and an epidemic.

Most of the patients brought in are gangrenous and there are some terrible phosphorous burn cases, including a girl of 12.

As far as our link is concerned I am considering asking for a commcen operator to help out during busy periods (the daily sitrep and stores lists are pages long). We have been visited by the BBC, ITV, Swedish and French TV, including the 24 Hours team.

I am force M.T.O. and O.C. others (Signals, R.E.M.E., Postal and Infantry aircraft unloading parties) as far as discipline and welfare is concerned. The force has eight doctors (including a surgeon and an anaesthetist), one dentist and five nursing sisters (Q.A.R.A.N.C.).

That's about all I can think of. The force H.Q. is sorting out the problems of Part II Orders and L.O.A. Everyone is, of course, 'confined to camp,' and as yet no beer, no films, no TV and only compo."

'The Wire' correspondent of the 30th Regiment fills in on the activities of their detachment in Jordan:

"After the cease-fire in Amman the detachment was airlifted from Cyprus and since that time have been working day and night round the clock. A further four SR A13 and six operators have since reinforced the original detachments — such was the size of the task. **Lance-Corporals 'Sandy' McLean, Les Dixon, Martin Lewis, Signalmen 'Geordie' Desborough, Tim Arnold** and **Colin Osborne** also staged in Cyprus.

The SR A13 detachments are all deployed as part of the International Red Cross with a set at the Headquarters on the Amman Sports Stadium and close to the French Red Cross team. The task is to provide emergency communications to co-ordinate the disposal of patients and control ambulances which are very limited in number. An A13 is mounted in the commander's Rover and control is established in the New King Hussein Hospital. The U.S. Hospital is located in the immediate vicinity and other detachments—initially set up with the Danish, Swiss and German Red Cross contingents with a detachment on standby and a detachment on the airfield. The standby detachment has subsequently been deployed to work with the Italian Hospital.

One Tg. Operator found himself working the SR D13 detachment from 14th Signal Regiment and punching-up tapes whilst the standby radio operators manned a 40/160 exchange jointly installed by the 14th and 30th Regiments detachments. The exchange at the new King Hussein Hospital terminates lines from the Jordanian Army and the U.S. Hospital and has 25 local subscribers. In their spare time the operators, having attended to their battery charging and re-supply problems, are hoping to visit some of the ancient sites in Jordan.

In conclusion we are pleased to be able to add one more unusual job in a faraway place to the long list of operations carried out by 30th Regiment."

The story at the time of going to Press concludes with a final comment from 14th Regiment:

What **Captain Hallchurch's** letter does not show is the excellent communication being provided by the detachment. Since the move into Jordan the D13 link to Cyprus has never been working at less than 90%—or about 22 hours a day—in traffic. In a signal since his letter **Hallchurch** reports that the A13 net has had to be further expanded to include the Italian hospital where two operators of 262 Signal Squadron are working.

Other outstations on this net, which has its centre at Ferrie-force H.Q., are located at H.Q. International Red Cross, Amman Airfield, the Swiss, German and Ashrafnya hospitals. In addition **Captain Hallchurch** will be sending an FFR C11 detachment to the Palestinian Red Crescent Hospital as soon as power and water are supplied to make this hospital, with it's Russian surgical team, effective. It is hoped to publish further details, with some photographs, in the next issue of THE WIRE, but **in the meantime all may rest assured that the name of the Corps is being upheld by Royal Signals in Jordan who in doing their task so well show the qualities of flexibility, humanity and toughness that so epitomises the British soldier.**

Exchange visit to the German 10th Signal Regiment

By Lieutenant K. G. Danby of 3rd Division Signal Regiment

AFTER the excitement of our Regimental Week during the first few days of the month, July became 'Exchange Au Pair' month. The Regiment was host to **Hauptmann Stöhr,** of Fernmelde Batallion 10, for two weeks before he accompanied **Lieutenant Danby** back to Sigmaringer for a fornight's return match with the Burdeswehr from 19th to 30th July. **Lieutenant Danby** gives the following account of his visit:

A warm welcome

Hauptmann Stöhr and I reached Sigmaringer on a fine Sunday morning, feeling less than fresh after the 18-hour rail and sea journey from London. At breakfast I was introduced to **Oberleutnant Spangenberg,** who had visited 24 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron the year before on an exchange visit with **Captain Stanley** of that unit. Restored by the meal, we moved logically on to a pre-lunch drinking session, at which the C.O., **Oberstleutnant Töpfer,** came in to make his English guest feel warmly welcome.

As most of the Regiment were on leave, we lost no time in driving out to visit the 2nd Company, on exercise at Kirnbergsee. All their vehicles and tents were neatly laid out in rows by the shoe of a lake, and we were offered the traditional exercise fare of wurst and potato salad. Also traditional was a freshly-hewn flagpole dominating the camp site. One of the working parties is always given the task of felling and preparing a suitable tall tree for this purpose whenever a new location is reached. (How lucky we are this is not one of 3rd Division's S.O.P.s—yet!).

Local amenities good

Lunch with all the Regiment's available officers was arranged for my first working day, and I had the chance to compare notes over the first of many sauerkraut sessions. The camp is named after Count Stauffenberg, who had been involved in the plot to assassinate Hitler, and there was a small ceremony to mark the anniversary of the attempt that afternoon, 20th July.

The camp is very modern, and each Company has an accommodation block large enough to hold all its single soldiers, with private rooms for two officers, in one of which I stayed. There is no central Officers' Mess in our sense, but all meals could be taken in an officers' centre, just outside the camp, on a ticket basis. The soldiers' centre, further down the road, was extremely well endowed with amenities, including a cinema and bowling alley, and there was every facility for metalwork, sculpture and engraving—useful for soldiers wishing to invite girl-friends to come and see the etchings—the Sigmaringer garrison could make their own!

Guest of the German Automobile Association

The centre-point of my stay was a weekend in Freiburg, where the 10th Division Signal Regiment were providing the communications for the Freiburg - Schavinsland mountain motor race, which takes place annually over a seven-mile uphill course and is open to motor-cycles and sports cars. A most enjoyable day was spent, as we were guests of **Brigadegeneral Viebig,** the Divisional second-in-command, and the German Automobile Association, who sponsor the race.

Even a helicopter is laid on

As there was so little training taking place during the leave period, it was decided to send me out sight-seeing as much as possible. I was able to see most of the beauty spots and castles of the Danube Valley and Lake Konstanz, and was lucky to be given the services of an Alouette pilot for a whole day's flying.

My military education continued at intervals, with a morning on the rifle range firing the AG3 self-loading rifle, a lighter weapon than ours, and a day spent with a tank Regiment learning to drive and shoot from a Panzer. Any spare moments were spent in the municipal swimming pool, a fine modern open air bath, built largely out of Army funds, and so all soldiers were allowed to swim there free.

Presented with a Black Lion Badge

On the eve of my departure, the C.O. arranged a farewell party (more wurst and sauerkraut, washed down by fine local wine) and I was presented with a lapel badge of the Black Lion, symbol of the 10th Division. En route to Munich airport, the next day, I was able to spend several hours at their School of Signals discussing some of their new equipment, followed by lunch as guest of the Commandant. This was a happy climax to a most rewarding fortnight.

The Parachute Selection Course

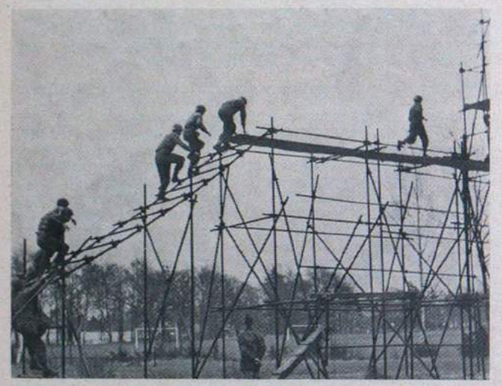
By Second-Lieutenant R. J. Gittings

"WE are not looking for supermen, but it helps if you are one"—famous words from the opening talk of the O.C. Pre-parachute Selection Company, to each course arriving at the Depot The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

The course consists of two weeks of fitness training and two weeks of selection for the Airborne Forces. However fit you are on arrival, you always wish you were a superman after the first few days.

Tested to exhaustion

The fitness training involves hours in the gymnasium, runs every day, log exercises and assault courses, including the indoor assault course, which you go round about 40 times without stopping. At the end of the two weeks, a kind of selection takes place where the unfit members and those with injuries are given either a re-course or R.T.U. For the successful, there are two weeks ahead, harder than the first two. You are tested in almost everything—gymnasium work, the indoor assault course, two runs, team games, outdoor assault courses, a steeplechase where you end up carrying almost your own weight of mud and water, and on the last day in Aldershot, the much-dreaded log race, which really takes every ounce of energy you can muster.



SELECTION PHASE

Balance, nerve and determination are all necessary during the time spent in the confidence area during selection for parachute duties

An important part of the first week of selection is the confidence area, which requires you to run over scaffolding obstacles, swing through the trees on ropes and do many other seemingly hair-raising tasks.

The second week is spent in the Brecon Beacon's area of Wales. This involves long distance marches, map-reading, abseiling and a seven-mile race carrying a stretcher weighing 150-200lb. In Wales you wear full equipment and carry a rifle.

After returning to Aldershot there's a day's wait to hear if you have passed. The selection is not only based on physical ability, but also on your morale and attitude.

First jumps

Those who pass the course—now feeling rather like supermen—move to R.A.F. Abingdon to learn how to parachute. Here, the tone is rather different from the physical life of 'P' Company. After ten days' ground training comes the first jumps, which is some experience. You go up to 800 feet in a cage suspended under a swaying balloon. The instructor in the cage tells jokes and you can laugh until you get to about 400 feet, then everything goes quiet until its time to jump. But you are drilled so well that when they say 'go' you go. After the balloon jumps come four daylight aircraft jumps at 1,000 feet, and by now you have the confidence to look up and watch the parachute open. Next is the night jump—it's very quiet after being in the aircraft and you can't tell how high you are, then someone on the ground calls up to you and you don't remember what he said because about a second later you 'hit the deck' and heave a sigh of relief. On the way down you think of the girls you could have met at the dance in the 101 Club.

By now you are feeling quite a 'he-man,' as there are only two jumps to go in the last week, so you really enjoy the night life at the 101 Club, where there is a discotheque several nights a week.

The last two jumps are done carrying a 60lb. equipment container, and it's quite a relief to get them over.

Celebration

Finally comes the celebration party, where truly 'a good time is had by all,' but many do not feel so good on the wings parade next morning.

You feel quite proud wearing your red beret for the first time, and the 'wings' are already sewn on to your jacket. Farewells are said as the course disperses to join the units you've spent the last two months trying to join. This is when you feel it has all been worthwhile, as everyone seems to be congratulating you.

I wouldn't say I'd do it again just yet, but I would recommend the life at 216 Parachute Signal Squadron to anybody.

Planning a communications backup

For Irish-Scottish Swimming Record Breaker

. . . as told by Lieutenant M. J. Backhurst, Royal Signals, att. 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, B.F.P.O. 17.

FRIDAY, 12th September, was a great day for **Kevin Murphy**, as it was then that he broke all records becoming the second man ever to conquer the 20-mile stretch of water between Donaghadee on the N.E. coast of Ireland and Portpatrick on the west coast of Scotland, breaking his predecessor's time by 3hr. 55min.

It was also a record breaker for Army Communications. Who else can claim to have supplied communications for such a venture? And even if you have I'm sure it wasn't on an A41! Despite the theorists I assure you we did.

To reassure those of you who are muttering, "Damn fool to attempt such a venture on such a set," I hasten to add that my main means of communications was the C42, the A41 being first a TSB and second an interesting test.

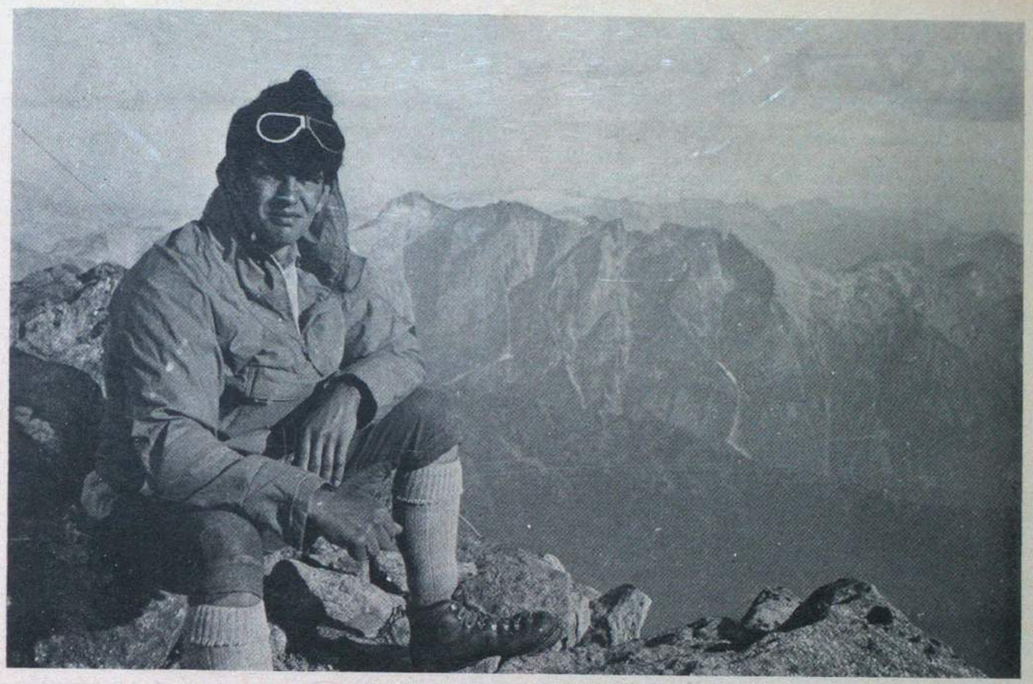
Throughout the trip the signals plan became more and more ambitious, the first change being a request by the Belfast paper who sponsored the swim to provide a radio link to their newspaper office in the middle of Belfast. This, despite a perilous roof crawl, was successfully accomplished, giving the evening edition readers the very latest and up-to-date information on the swim.

No sooner was the newspaper escapade complete than the BBC asked if they could speak to the escort boat direct on their six o'clock news bulletin; this entailed a complete bastardisation of our immaculate radio set-up in what was just short of 30 minutes' notice. However, with two minutes to go all was ready, the noise level acceptable, and then it was on the screen, and actually understandable!

The next drama came during the final stages when beacons and flares were required on the distant beach to guide in a very tired **Kevin Murphy;** a guardsman, using his reincarnated morse code, flashed away at the beach hoping that somebody could understand him. His efforts were rewarded by answering flashes and by beacons bursting into flames. It was later learnt that the signaller on the beach had last used morse code during the 1939-45 War.

The final 200 yards were reported with such enthusiasm by one of our Sergeants that there are strong rumours within the Battalion that he has been offered a place on the BBC's 'Panorama' team.

Lastly, our operations room in the middle of riot-torn Belfast became an information centre for those members of the world press not at the swim H.Q. at Donagadhee or reporting on the hijacking case. Final thought — had there been riots in Belfast . . .



SIGNALLER ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Brendon Hughes on top of a peak in Arctic Norway. The view was splendid—all 80 miles of it

A month inside the Arctic Circle

Norped '70

Report by Lieutenant B. Hughes, currently on 24 Degree Course at the Royal Military College of Science.

A month in the Arctic Circle

"Norped" is an annual joint Services expedition held in Northern Norway. The twenty members of the expedition are drawn from the Officer training establishments of each Service, leaders being recruited from experienced mountaineers of all three Services. The object of the expedition, which lasts a month, is to teach the arts of ice and rock climbing and Arctic survival in addition to performing a survey on a glacier snout. To achieve this we went to the Svartisen glacier inside the Arctic Circle.

This year the Royal Air Force flew the expedition and all its equipment to Bodø. From there we moved a distance of about one hundred and forty kilometres by road to Leiramo in the Beiarn valley. Leiramo's chief claim to fame as a hamlet is that it is at the end of the road for vehicles, as we soon learnt to our sorrow. We set up our Base Camp here, but it transpired that we had to carry many loads of up to eighty pounds up to the head of the valley, another ten miles, before we could start to use the equipment as we had intended.

Because of this logistic problem our month in Norway was spent rather more in moving equipment and general stores than in climbing. We were divided into groups of four, each group being given a logistic task to do, a time for helping with the survey and several periods during which to plan its own activities.

"Stark mountains rose up in waves"

My group made good use of the time set aside for group activities since we managed to have several good days ice and snow climbing and one five-day trek across the ice field to Glomdalen valley. From a camp site there we were able to cover a completely new area, including a one-day trip to Helgelands Bukien across the western half of the ice cap. The view from the top of this mountain was beyond belief. On the eastern and southern sides the ice field stretched away for many miles. Below us to the north a long finger of the sea probed inland at Nordfjord. Beyond this, range upon range of stark mountains rose up in waves for as far as we could see. We managed to identify some on the horizon which were near Bodø, some eighty miles away to the north. In the westerly direction the sun was falling low over the North Sea and thousands of tiny inlets looked like red hot stalagmites.

A night on an ice cap

The conditions on this year's "Norped" were not too bad over-all, the weather being the best in the Svartisan area for a decade. Even so, both my group and another were restricted by bad weather on the ice field. We were lucky in being able to get off the ice quickly, however; the other group were caught in a crevasse field by fog and icy rain and were forced to spend a night out on the open ice cap. They had such a cold night that they were awake cooking breakfast at 3 o'clock.

The most noticeable change in the length of daylight occurred while we were in Norway. We were too late in the year to see the famous 'midnight sun' as we arrived in early August. However, the evenings were long and at 23.00 hours there was still enough light to read a book. By the end of the month the days had become much shorter, nightfall being at about 19.00 hours, which was quite a drastic change. The weather also became much more autumnal with rain and cloud predominating.

Very worthwhile

Over-all, "Norped '70" was a very worthwhile expedition for all those who took part in it, as it provided an excellent basis on which to plan a more ambitious expedition in the future.

Some ladies of 242 Signal Squadron take on quite a job in

Applecross — or can you act as Chaperones?

How it all came about

IN March this year 242 Signal Squadron were asked if we could provide some "Servicewomen without special skills to act as chaperones" . . . Whatever next! However, the Squadron Commander and the W.R.A.C. O.C. Operating Troop set off (unchaperoned) to investigate on 8th April.

It was **Lieutenant Ruth Pearse's** first trip north, and the weather was gloriously sunny, as the two officers travelled further into the wilds enjoying their 'swan' (correction, arduous duty). They were at a loss to understand the necessity of a RV at the far end. A pleasant lunch at Fort William was followed by a drive through the most beautiful scenery in the world, until they reached Kyle of Lochalsh, where the headed notepaper said the place should be.

But notepaper can be downright misleading. No, they had to go further on, and on they went. Although the mountains were thick white, the snow line was high and driving was good in the brilliant sunshine.

They were stopped by a driver coming south and assured that the RV was manned, not once, but several times; but why an RV? The roads became narrow, and went up, and up, and up. Then the two stopped. The snow line was abrupt and thick. The car was abandoned and two chastened officers started walking. Five miles in a blizzard of driven snow, lying three feet thick, does not need a chaperone. The two arrived wet and exhausted at the Dockland Settlement West Highland School of Adventure at Applecross and began to find out what it was all about.

The School is run by **Flight-Lieutenant** and **Mrs. D. J. Watkins** as part of the Dockland Settlement, under the patronage of Her Majesty The Queen and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. It is situated on the Wills estate at Applecross and runs adventure training for youngsters of between 14 and 20. When it is a girls' course there is a need for some assistant instructors of the fair sex, hence the request.

Eventually **Corporal L. J. Reynolds, Private M. Stevenson** and **Private S. Winstanley** were sent to do this job. The following is **Corporal Reynolds'** account of what took place:

The worst road in Scotland

From 24th April to 21st May, **Corporal L. J. Reynolds, Privates Winstanley** and **M. Stevenson** were invited to act as chaperones to 45 Glasgow girls at the West Highland School of Adventure at Applecross, a remote highland village facing the Island of Raasay, beyond which lies the Isle of Skye. The 10½-mile pass leading into Applecross is known to be the worst road in Scotland, the highest point being 2,054 feet above sea level.

Finally we reached our destination, and after being introduced to the members of the staff, we were given a meal and shown to our living accommodation. The next morning we were shown over the school and then the Warden briefed us on duties which were mainly to assist the male instructors in different outdoor pursuits, consisting of map-reading and compass work, rock climbing, sailing and canoeing.

We were also informed that we would have to take turns in doing 24-hour duties. This meant sleeping in the School, supervising the meals and cleaning, and to ensure the girls were in bed by 22.00 hours with lights out. At 06.30 each morning the girls were given P.T.—apart from Sunday, when they were allowed a long lie in bed, until 07.00 hours!

A Commando course for the girls

The girls, aged between 14 and 16, arrived in the afternoon and were divided into four groups, each of us taking charge of a group. The following day the girls were introduced to a full-size Commando course, situated at the back of the School. The girls were dubious to attempt the first obstacle which was a 6ft. high rope on which you had to lie flat and pull yourself across. The girls thought we were used to the course and refused to do it until we had shown them how easy it was. **Private Winstanley** elected to go first; shakily she climbed the tree, lay on the rope, pulled herself three inches along, and then, red in the face, fell to the ground. After the girls had finished cheering and clapping, they seemed more eager to have a go.

THE 'CHAPERONES' ABOUT TO GO TO SEA
Left to right: Private M. Stevenson, Private S. Winstanley and Corporal L. J. Reynolds before going to sea

During the course the girls went on two expeditions; the first was a three-day walk covering 27 miles, staying at shacks overnight. The girls enjoyed living rough, but some found the walk tiring, having to carry haversacks over steep parts of the path. By the third day many of them had bad blisters, so they stayed behind at the last shack to be driven back to School while the rest continued.

Tipping the chaperone into the sea

The second expedition was for four days, when the girls went camping and were taught how to canoe and how to sail 'cutters.' The most amusing incident was when the girls tipped **Private Stevenson** into the sea from the dinghy.

Away from the physical aspects, the girls held discussions in the evenings and each was invited to study a famous person and talk on this particular person for at least five minutes.

During bad weather, when outdoor activities were impossible, the girls were kept busy in the large gymnasium, using a variety of apparatus, which included an Olympic-size trampoline, rings, trapezes and fencing equipment.

The highlight of the course was a visit from **H.R.H. Princess Margaret,** who is the President of the School's governing body. She watched the girls taking part in various activities and attended a service in the School's own chapel.

The culmination of a most enjoyable month was the regatta, where everything went; canoe racing and dinghy racing, when everybody seemed to get soaked to the skin, and instructors, included ourselves, were being thrown into the sea.

On the final evening all students, staff and their families dined together, after which there was a presentation of awards gained during the course. The evening was then thrown over to the girls to entertain the staff. This proved to be quite hilarious, as the girls were mimicking the instructors, and were quite good at it.

There were many tears and sad farewells; the majority of the girls did not wish to go home and would have preferred to stay on and do it all over again—including ourselves.—Ah well, back to the barracks.

Blandford to the Indian Ocean—that was

Exercise Palm

As told by Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Manning and others of 'B' Troop, 14th Regiment

SCENE FROM GAN ISLAND
'I've got it working now F. of S."
Left to right: Corporal Reg Wye, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Gould. In background Staff-Sergeant Jim Sutton effects indifference

Recently, one of the detachments of 'Bravo' Troop, led by **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Gould,** flew from Lyneham and Fairford for Gan for Exercise 'Palm.' For those who don't know Gan, it is an island of the Addu Atoll, a ring of islands which are part of the Maldives, and lies 30 miles south of the equator in the Indian Ocean. Gan Island itself is just big enough to take a runway for the airfield, with buildings on either side.

There are about 400 members of the Army and R.A.F. on the island, and one lone female, the W.R.V.S. representative, **'Ros' Howard.**

On arrival on the island, the detachment soon got to know the 19th Signal Regiment Troop, who looked after us extremely well. Despite the overcast skies and heavy rain, our first casualties were from sunburn. **Lance-Corporal 'Lefty' Wright's** knees quickly became piebald.

Communications went well, with only one or two minor hitches, mainly when our source of mains power, the Pakistani Cinema, was showing a film, for on such occasions, our radio station became very much second priority to the film projector in the use of the power socket.

The sporting achievements of the detachment deserves mention; of five games of hockey played, two were won, two lost and one drawn. The two victories were against 19th Signal Regiment's Troop. After their first match, which we won 4—2, their captain, **Lineman Larry,** informed us that they had only fielded their second team, and next time it would be different—and it was—our detachment won 6—0; our stars were **Lance-Corporal Bob Brebner** and **Lance-Corporal 'Tich' Manning.** The detachment also excelled at basketball, beating the R.A.F. Gan team. Most of the detachment became quite proficient in the water, two of our three non-swimmers became quite expert 'Oggin bashers' when told that there were stone fish in the pool and large crabs under the seaweed.

Several members of the detachment, led by those giants of the angling world, **Staff Sergeant 'Gentleman Jim' Sutton** and **F. of S. Brian Gould,** went aboard the RFA 'Wave Victor' to compete with lines and bait. They returned with lines and hooks and the thanks of the fish population for a free meal.

Lance-Corporal Wright and **Signalman Terry Williams**—the Hans and Lotte Hasse of **14th Signal Regiment**—having squandered good ale money on masks, snorkels and flippers, spent most of their time trading skin for coral on the reef. We expect to be able to announce in the next edition a definite answer as to which of the two is Lotte.

During the exercise, **Captain Tim Hallchurch,** the Troop Commander, arrived, and after a couple of weeks or so with us, left by VC-10 for Singapore, from where he went to Mauritius via Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, a round-trip of some 11,000 miles to get to Mauritius, 1,750 miles away from Gan.

The detachment owes its thanks to **Corporal Ted Watson,** from 223 Signal Squadron, for his assistance, both at work and on the sports field. **Corporal Watson,** who joined us for the exercise, is leaving the Army soon to join the 'FUZZ,' so next time you exceed the speed limit in Sheffield watch out! We also much enjoyed having **Signalman 'Hank' Ward** and **'Jock' Paton,** of 30th Signal Regiment, on the exercise with us.

Finally, a word of thanks for all ranks of the R.A.F. at Gan. No unit could have been more helpful, and we certainly do appreciate the assistance given.

The Ben Nevis Race

Report from 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)

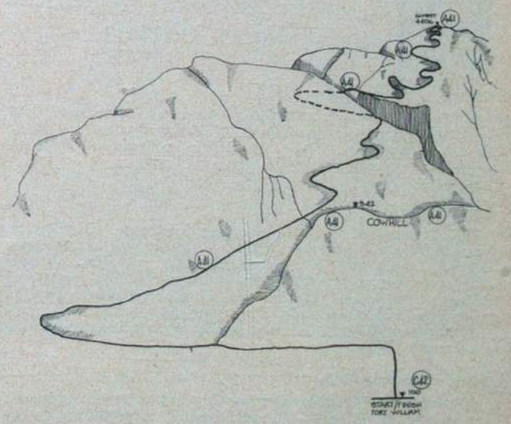
A job for Signals

Annually on the first Saturday of September some 180 athletes assemble at Fort William to race to the top of Ben Nevis and back. The Services are usually well represented. Because of the extreme physical demands of the race and the dangerous conditions which can exist on the Ben, a comprehensive safety and rescue system is necessary. R.A.F., police and the local Lochaber mountain rescue teams, R.A.M.C. medical teams and Royal Signals detachments, together with race officials, are stationed on Ben Nevis throughout the race. 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) provides the detachments for radio communications, and for observing and accounting for all the competitors during the race.

W.R.A.C. play their part

This year a 35-strong party from 52 (Lowland) Signal Squadron established stations at Fort William and at intervals up to the summit. In order to communicate from Fort William to all parts of the mountain a further two relay stations were established on neighbouring Cowhill. C42 was used at Fort William and A41 on the mountains. This year we included seven W.R.A.C. to operate the C42 and to provide the detachment at the lowest point. At least one person mistook the girls for boys. Was it the boots and combat dress or the long tresses?

BEN NEVIS



Weather appalling

The weather conditions on Ben Nevis on the Friday were so appalling that it was decided to postpone the climb until as late as possible. A call to the Glasgow Weather Centre forecast cloud base 500 feet, strong wind, sleet and rain. Early on the Saturday morning the detachments set out in slightly improved weather. A check on the R.A.F. CW weather broadcast assured improved conditions. Flurries of sleet and snow gave the detachments little comfort but the cloud base did lift. One little advantage afforded by wet conditions is that the scree holds together more, giving better footing. The summit detachments reported 20 knot wind, visibility 100 yards dropping to 20 yards, rain and low temperature.

Radio communication had been maintained throughout the climb to locations. All that remained was to brew up, try to keep dry and wait for the runners.

A useful service

At 2.30 in greatly improved weather the runners set off on the race which has earned the name of the toughest in Britain. They came from all parts of the U.K. and abroad. This year the ages ranged from 19 to 64 years. Our detachments logged each runner's progress, cases of injury, exhaustion and exposure. Every competitor must be accurately accounted for throughout the entire race. This is always difficult with so many runners choosing their own particular way up a cloud-draped Ben Nevis. All this information was transmitted to Fort William where the girls compiled a complete race progress chart and passed back such detail as required by mountain rescue or medical teams. Most of this was relayed over the public address system thus keeping the crowd at Fort William up to the minute with the race and any little drama high up on the mountain. The relay station on Cowhill worked non-stop all afternoon.

At ten past four the first man trotted in to win in one hour forty minutes—two minutes outside the record. This seems an incredible time for one-and-a-half miles of road and track then four thousand four hundred and six feet of Ben Nevis and back. Our four hours to the summit looked pretty sick—mind you, foul weather smocks, an A41 set, rations, etc., does tend to slow one.

Competitor casualties this year were extremely light. This meant a quicker descent for the detachments. At the foot of the Ben the Race Committee liberally dispensed our national tipple which soon restored life to cold and tired bodies.

It's now back to future weekends of D11s and teleprinters. As one volunteer was heard to remark, "They canny mak us cairry a D11 up tae the tap o' that bluidy mountain—can they?"

News from Regiments

2nd Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 46

Change of faces

TO write down the names of all those who have just left us and those who have just joined or about to join would fill this page. Suffice to say 'Good luck' to those who have left and a warm welcome to those who have just arrived.

Exercises

The autumn exercise season opened this month with Exercise 'Bronze Prince III.' The aim of the exercise was to familiarise the newcomers and to try out some new procedures. It was also an opportunity to blow the summer 'cobwebs' away and indeed there were plenty. Isn't it odd that we always have to relearn the old old lessons. The exercise, however, went very well in many respects. There were also some new cries like tell Pandora to Q.R.T.

The sporting life

We won the Divisional Cricket Cup and were just 'pipped' at the post in the B.A.O.R. semi-final. It is promising to see a lot of new cricketers who should add that little extra needed to win the B.A.O.R. Cup next year!

Perhaps our greatest success has been in canoeing. Having won the B.A.O.R. long-distance races the team went forward to the Army Championships where they were placed third overall. We were particularly happy to see that Royal Signals Blandford won the Army meeting, particularly as some of their team only recently left this unit. Congratulations to **Corporals Bingham** and **Hebdon** on being selected for the Army team.

With the onset of autumn the boxing and rugby have got off to a very good start with two splendidly supported inter-Squadron competitions. The 12-a-side rugby was won by 2 Squadron by a try to nil after a very fierce battle. The Novices' boxing was won by 1 Squadron after some very 'bloody' bouts. The competition was so close that 1 Squadron only won by winning the first-string welter bout having drawn with R.H.Q. and 2 Squadron on points. It really was a tremendous evening with the boxers giving all they had got—and more.

Another pot

This year the Regiment entered a team in the Espelkamp (a nearby town) Military Competition. Teams from the German, Dutch Army and Air Forces, German Police, other British Units and civilian teams were competing. The competition consisted of shooting, pistol shooting, grenade throwing, orienteering and a quiz on aircraft and tank recognition. Needless to say the Regiment walked away with the cup.

Lake search by Corporal Goatley of 3 Bells Sub Aqua Club

On Saturday, 5th September, eight members of the 3 Bells Sub Aqua Club were on site at Möhnesee to participate in a club pleasure dive. On arrival at the lake we were approached by the local Police to help search for a German yachtsman who had fallen overboard.

At this stage he had been in the water for three hours. We searched in a marked area, for as long as our air supply lasted. The search was unsuccessful. We were asked to continue the search the following day, by which time more divers had been contacted from the N.A.T.O. forces stationed in the area.

On both days conditions hindered us. The visibility was poor and the water extremely cold.

At one stage, one group of divers was at a depth of 70ft. doing a circular rope search from a marker buoy in a visibility of 2ft.

Participants in the search were: **Corporal Mike Goatley,** diving officer; **Major Geoffrey Lefroy,** 3rd class diver; **Sergeant Alec Johnstone,** 3rd class diver; **Corporal Alan Lee,** 2nd class diver; **Driver 'Paddy' O'Connor,** 3rd class diver; **Driver 'Jock' Hanna,** 2nd class diver; **Corporal Don Lee,** snorkel diver; **Signalman Dick Gregg,** snorkel diver.

We assisted two German divers from the German Lifeguard Corps (D.L.R.G.), and have since fostered a very good friendship with their group, giving us an outlook for good diving in the Möhnesee area next year.

We received a letter of thanks for our help from the Oberkreisdirektor of the German Police which reads:

"On 5th September, 1970, a German sailor drowned when he was sailing on the Möhnesee. The search for the body required immediate action. I was therefore very impressed by the readiness of eight soldiers from your Regiment, six of whom were divers and two others who took part in the search.

I would like to thank these men for their initiative and help and I would like you to pass on my thanks to them.

In the excellent way in which the help was offered and carried out, I see the understanding and friendship between yourselves and the German population which is the result of your residence in this country. I thank you and sign, Most respectfully."

Cheque for 'Wittekindshof'

On 15th September the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. Yeoman,** accompanied by **Captain Dunlop,** presented a cheque for DM1,500 to the 'Wittekindshof.'

For those who do not know, the 'Wittekindshof' is a hospital for the mentally ill. The Regiment have helped the 'Wittekindshof' for many years, mostly with donations. We

(Continued on page 513)

(Continued from page 512)

2nd REGIMENT GIVE GENEROUS HELP TO THE 'WITTEKINDSHOF'

A cheque for DM 1,500, collected by 2nd Division Signal Regiment, was handed over to Pastor Dr. Johannes Klevinghaus on behalf of the Wittekindshof, a hospital for the mentally ill. This is the second time this year the Regiment has made a donation. The cheque was handed over by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Yeoman to Dr. Klevinghaus, while Dr. A. Sasse and Captain (Q.M.) S. Dunlop smilingly look on

have built a playground for them in the past and this year we have been asked to help build an outside theatre and this we will do. The money we give to them is collected by the soldiers in the Regiment during the many functions which occur in Birdwood Barracks.

This is the second donation this year. The 'Wittekindshof' is immensely appreciative of our help which of course gives us a lot of pleasure.

4th. Division Signal Regiment B.F.P.O. 15

Exercise 'Quicksilver'

IN late August bystanders saw an intriguing column of 4-tonners and stripped Land Rovers leave Hammersmith Barracks. Twenty-four hours later they came to rest in Bavaria, assembling for an enterprising escape and evasion exercise devised by **Lieutenant Chris Barnes.**

The principle players in the exercise were 'Bravo' and 'Lima' Troops who escaped and evaded (where possible) the eyes, ears and hands of **Lieutenant Dick Stokes,** 'Alpha' 3 Troop, who were known as 'S' Force.

After being searched to ensure they were not in possession of Barclay cards, cheque books and the like the evaders were set down in pairs in some wood-covered hills. Their aim was to meet friendly agents at a pre-arranged rendezvous to gain further information on the way to 'safety' and another 'oatmeal block'!

Sergeant Moore and **Corporal Lidbury** were among the welcoming agents and were frequently to be found near churches—having repented no doubt! 'S' Force went quietly and successfully about their tasks and as the hours passed their haul of escapers slowly mounted. After five days of 'running' only six stalwarts managed to cross the river Danube to safety. Those six were **Corporal Wilson, Lance-Corporal Blakemore, Signalmen Deas, Fox, Forster** and **Ryan.** The remainder suffered discomfort, inconvenience and blackmail at the hands of members of our local Intelligence Detachment. The six who did succeed were full of praise for the co-operation, hospitality and generosity of the locals of the area when their plight and objective were explained.

This was a very successful exercise on the whole and thoroughly enjoyed by all, save a few of the evaders, who did not appreciate the post capture treatment. However, as far as is known, no member of Parliament has been in receipt of a complaining letter.

Troop tests

The second annual troop tests took place in early September. Most of the old tests of initiative, skill and speed were apparent with a few new ones thrown in. The guiding light (he's never been called that before) behind the tests—**Major Fred Stork**—says he has yet more new ones in store for 1971.

The tests caused the usual comments of approval, or disapproval, dependent on the team's success or otherwise, but all-in-all two good days' activity were had by all. This would not perhaps be generally agreed throughout the Regiment but the tests are designed not only for interest but to expose weaknesses in training which can be rectified in subsequent training programmes.

One new test—that of rescuing an electrocuted man from a simulated demolished building—was devised by **Lieutenant 'Dick' Stokes** and **Q.M.S.I. Tye,** and it demanded a high degree of first-aid knowledge and teamwork. Connecting batteries in parallel caused the cooks' team some consternation when the sparks flew and they left the stand with the knowledge that there were other currants(!) besides those with which they normally dealt! A red R.E.M.E. face or two was apparent when one team found 39 'A' jobs on the vehicle specially rigged with 20 'A' jobs!

The winners, as last year, were M.T. Troop—their team consisted of **Corporal Gilbertson, Lance-Corporals Chicken** and **Goldie,** and **Driver Hunt,** and they scored 374 of a possible 450 points. The second team from 3 Squadron, scoring 348½ points, was **Corporal Lidbury, Lance-Corporal Burnett, Driver Poynes** and **Signalman Hughes.** This year a Squadron competition was instituted averaging all the teams' points from each Squadron and this was won by 3 Squadron.

Changes near the top

Lieutenant MacDonald has arrived recently and taken up the Assistant Adjutant's reins after visits to the Training Brigade, School of Signals and Records. His boss, the Adjutant, is in the throes of changing—or it appears that way—as **Captain Hamilton** has been carefully indoctrinating **Captain Lance** in recent meetings between them. Even nearer the top—**Major O'Connor** has arrived from AG 11 to take the Second-in-Command's chair.

C.C.R. Signals visit

We were pleased to receive a visit from **Brigadier W. E. Sherratt, M.B.E.,** recently. After a formal start, when the Brigadier presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **Captain Kimber, Staff Sergeant Nutter** and **Sergeant Cotillard,** he did a quick change into his blue sweater before visiting various departments of the Regiment.

We hope the Brigadier enjoyed his visit which culminated in pre-lunch drinks with the Warrent Officers and Sergeants before a small luncheon party in the Officers' Mess.

WETTING THOSE MEDALS

Sergeant Cotillard, Brigadier Sherratt, Captain Kimber and Staff-Sergeant Nutter after the Brigadier had earlier presented the L.S. and G.C. medals

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

Pandora B

SEPTEMBER has been an exciting month for 7th Signal Regiment. The big news is Pandora B. Who? The name means 'Perfect Answer to Nasty Dilemma Over Routing Arrangements in Bruin.' This equipment, which is mounted in a 3-ton truck, handles up to 29 telegraph circuits. It is a mini mobile TARE but being based on an Elliot 920 computer it is far more flexible than its static grandfather at Boddington.

Pandora is already a personality in the Regiment. She was fielded as a Corps commcen tape relay vehicle on Exercise 'Falcon's Claw.' The team from S.R.D.E., **Jim C'ark, Bruce Ogilvy-Morris** and **George Evans** took to field conditions like ducks to water. They became totally integrated into the life of the two Commcens.

Not only was 'Falcon's Claw' used to put Pandora through her paces but also to practice the Regiment's communication and movement drills. Commcen 'Bravo' asked Commcen 'Alpha' (who had only moved five times) what it felt like to be the static Corps Commcen! **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Hall** answered the telephone with "Computers Bravo here.' **Major Randall** was impressed at being addressed by Pandora with the three letter heading GOD.

Falcon's Claw' was used to demonstrate S.R.D.E.'s S.H.F. Radio Relay and also the 10kva. quietened generator.

At one point the visitors outnumbered the members of Commcen 'Bravo's' field Mess for Officers and Seniors. **W.O.II Roberts,** the S.S.M., and **Staff Sergeant Banks,** the S.Q.M.S., enjoyed the influx as each new arrival put the Mess finances a notch higher. It all happened on 'Falcon's Claw.'

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Although the winter season sports competitions have not yet got under way, all sports teams have been most active.

Rugby

The season has started with several familiar faces missing but new faces have appeared on the scene: **Second-Lieutenant Malcolm Sinton, Sergeant Cess Parkinson** and **Craftsman 'Taffy' Owens** from the L.A.D., the remainder of the team being regulars from last season.

Results so far:	R.E.M.E., Detmold	Won 47-0
	10th Regiment, R.C.T.	Won 17-5
	20th Armoured Brigade	Won 42-0
	Hameln Rats	Won 16-3
	12th Lt. Air Def. Regt., R.A.	Won 11-0
	1 R.R.W.	Lost 6-0
	Bielefeld Javelins	Won 16-3
	22nd Signal Regiment	Won 52-0

The first round of the Army Cup is on 17th October, so once again we set out on the long trail in the attempt to recapture the Army Cup for the Corps. (Our best wishes go with you.—Editor).

Hockey

The season started with a series of friendly matches and a tour in the Rheindahlen area. **C.S.M.I. Hierlehy** was out talent-spotting during inter-Troop games. Many old faithfuls from last year, such as **Sergeants Thorburn** and **Cousins, Staff Sergeant Hurn,** the C.S.M.I. and **Captain Clark,** are still with us. There seems to be a new 'heavy mob' in defence, **Majors Cathcart, Hales** and **Walter** having played in these early matches.

The summary of matches looks promising. 8 matches: Won 5, drawn 2, lost 1. On the tour there were four matches: Won 3 and drawn 1.

Marching

A team of 10 entered the Dortmunder Volkslauf and all gained two silver awards (one for cross-country, the other for a 10 kilometre march). **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Coole** lead the team, and came sixth as an individual in a vast field.

Orienteering

This is a new sport for the Regiment. The team captain is **Staff Sergeant Bowman** and he must have been delighted when, in the 4 Division championships, **Corporal Burrows** came first and **Lance-Corporal Lee** second.

These fine performances, with excellent backing from the others, meant a clear team victory too. The team is now entered for the Army Championships in U.K.

10th Signal Regiment Hounslow

REGIMENTAL SUMMER CAMP

By W.O.II (S.S.M.) J. E. Taylor

A few days away from it all

EVEN those members of the Regiment who, for reasons of old age, ill health, or sheer carelessness, normally remain in the chased precincts of Beavers Lane Camp, were mustered for the summer camp, at St. Martin's Plain, between 31st August and 18th September.

The aim was to complete P.E. Tests and Range Classifications in one foul swoop, and it was thought that a few days away from the noise and bustle of Hounslonia would be a morale booster. It was, in fact, the case, and generally a good time was had by all.

The presence of the W.R.A.C. element of the Regiment was welcomed, although, unfortunately, few were able to enjoy a week away. However, those who came were ably entertained by the soldiers (possibly twenty to one) and successfully completed the training programme. **W.O.I Wackett,** W.R.A.C., was allowed to purchase drinks at the bar during her second week and proved a very popular military figure in the combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

Special mention

A special mention should be given to **Sergeant Gair,** who spent the first week on the plain and demonstrated his ability, not only to complete the prescribed training, but in other fields, namely lighting the gas geyser by numbers—one, turn on gas; two, go to room and fetch matches; three, light match; four, BOOM.

Casualties were few; **Corporal Goggin** managed to damage a foot and announced that he could not march the nine miles. "But I can trot, sir," he said. And so he did, setting a record of 1 hour 34 minutes—well done, **Corporal Goggin.**

Breaking in and out

Escape and evasion was the subject of the night exercise during the first week. We had been joined this week by two of the Intelligence Section N.C.O.s, **Corporal Yaxley** and **Corporal Pepino.** It transpired that during the exercise **Corporal Pepino** broke into camp on the east side, but then decided that perhaps he should not have entered through that particular area; he then broke out, passed the same sentries, and back in again on the west side. His counterpart, **Corporal Yaxley,** spent 1½ hours crawling up a hill, past sentries who were not there, since the exercise had long finished. When the R.S.M. stood on the hill shouting "come in, **Corporal Yaxley,"** he lay low, thinking it was a trap. Our champions on evasion were **Sergeant Cavanagh** and **Private Senior,** W.R.A.C., who were the first home undetected.

The Trials Squadron, from the School of Signals, were invited to attend the camp. Eventually they offered a take-over bid; week three saw them in the majority, and the consumption of alcohol increased three-fold.

The Press take part

A sudden interest by the Press saw the arrival of two newspapermen of the *Middlesex Chronicle.* "We will live with the soldiers, eat their food and do as they do for 24 hours." Both gentlemen, one bearded and bespectacled, and the other a tribute to modern youth, were classic examples of unsoldierly turnout, although excellent chaps, who expressed delight in what they did and saw, prior to their departure. The bearded character, nicknamed Fidel Castro, not having shot before, proved himself to be definitely infantry material. On the subject of shooting, the W.R.A.C. excelled, beating some of the soldiers too.

And a little shooting, too

Thursday, 17th September, was Officers' and Senior N.C.O.s' day, weapons chosen were pistol and SMG. Unfortunately, for a number of officers they decided to arrive a day early, and were immediately detailed as a defence platoon for the night exercise, their mission was to defend the 'President' (**R.S.M. Postlethwaite,** elevated for the day) from kidnapping. Success has not spoiled them. Thursday morning was taken up with practice, both on the miniature range, **Major (T.O.T.) Pattison** taking the kitty, and on the 25 metre range. A special lunch was arranged, and guests included Commander 2 Brigade, **Brigadier A. G. Findlay,** the Camp Commandant, St. Martin's Plain Camp, **Major (Retd.) Tony Ayling,** and members of his staff, including the illustrious civilian Quartermaster 'Alfie,' who declared "I never eat while I'm drinking." The serious business of the day began at 14.00 hours, when top-scoring officer, **Major John Welch,** of our Aldershot Squadron, insisted that he couldn't see the target; the Second-in-Command, **Major Arthur Begg,** only excels with a side-stake; the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel David Barker,** waited until the target turned sideways and then cut it in two. Best shot of the day was **Sergeant McDonald.**

As a footnote, I might add that it was noted, when handing the camp back to the permanent staff that, although everything was checked on takeover, someone forgot to sign.

11th Signal Regiment Catterick Camp

The Regiment was saddened to learn, on 17th September, of the death, in Millbank Hospital, of **Major Jack Hedges,** who had recently arrived to take up the appointment of O.C. H.Q. Squadron. This was made more tragic by following, as it did, so closely upon the death of his wife in July. The Regiment's deepest sympathy is extended to his only son, John.

Pass-off parades

Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. G. Todd, O.B.E., P.WO., G.S.O., 1 Northumbrian District, took the salute at the pass-off parade of 4 Troop on 11th September. The best recruit of his intake was **Signalman Cartwright,** who comes from Bolton. He is now training as a radio operator, and will no doubt prove to be an asset to the Corps, having previously served in the Territorial Army.

Major-General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E., G.O.C., Northumbrian District, took the salute at the pass-off parade of 8 Troop on 25th September. The best recruit on parade was **Signalman O'Brien,** who joined the Army immediately after leaving school. He likes sport and travel, and he believes that the Corps will suit him admirably. He now goes on to train as a telegraph operator.

Signalman O'Brien—best Recruit No. 8 Troop—taken during Map Reading practice at Scarborough Training Camp

O.R. 1 Troop visits Stirling

The Regiment runs adventure training courses throughout the year under the supervision of **Lieutenant Q. Vigurs** and **Lance-Corporal D. Alexander.** In September, OR 1 Troop joined the normal participants, Continuation Training Troop, on the course. The potential officers were given the opportunity to practice leadership in the field, both of them being in charge of a section. The activities included rock climbing, mountain walking and canoeing expeditions. During one period of shooting a fairly difficult rapid, **Signalman C. Smith** was unseated from his canoe and dragged a distance of a quarter-of-a-mile by the current, experiencing great difficulty in regaining the shore. He, incidentally, holds a gold life-saving certificate! Still, no one was seriously hurt, and all enjoyed the course.

Arrivals and departures

We say goodbye to **Lieutenant C. D. McK. Kemp,** who has left on posting to the Far East, and welcome **Lieutenant I. M. S. Cross,** who is now OR 1 Troop Commander.

Also in 1 Squadron, **Sergeant K. C. Stewart** left the Regiment to go 'up the sharp end' with 2nd Division Signal Regiment.

He was joined in his journey to B.A.O.R. by **Corporal S. Barnett,** who left teaching fieldcraft to our recruits to join 11 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron.

A final farewell was said to **Lance-Corporal G. Wood,** who took the big step into civilian life during September.

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

Archery

The Regiment now boasts an Archery Club, which is under the enthusiastic guidance of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Phippard.** Looking around for inspiration, we found that our Dutch neighbours run a league competition throughout the summer, and so a meeting was arranged.

Our early practice efforts were disappointing. After firing 30 arrows at one target, achieving two hits and distributing the remaining arrows somewhere in the surrounding woodlands, we realised that archery was a skilful business. The Dutch club rubbed home the lesson when they defeated us by over 400 points. However, we all enjoyed the event and are resolved to do better next time. The Toxophilites in need of more practice are **W.O.I (F. of S.) Harry Saxton, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Bob Phippard, Sergeant Dave Bullard, W/Sergeant Brenda Parkin** (W.R.A.C.), **Corporal Dave Hankins** (Intelligence Corps), **Sapper 'Taff' Holman** (R.E.) and **Lance-Corporal Ray Edwards.**

Sergeants' Mess

We were hosts on 20th September to the annual tennis tournament, Officers' Mess v. the Sergeants. Beautiful sunshine, good tennis and enthusiastic spectators proved the ingredients for a pleasant afternoon. As the last set commenced the score stood at four matches and one set all. The Officers (who later claimed fading light!), were narrowly defeated in the final set to give a 5-4 victory to the Sergeants' Mess.

SERGEANT ERIC 'SPIKE' JONES
His warm character and bristling moustache will be missed

We welcome to the fold on promotion **Sergeants George Canning** and **Peter Hand.** The fact that **Sergeant Hand** was promoted just two days before the tennis was purely coincidental.

On 7th September we said a very 'liquid' goodbye to **Sergeant Eric 'Spike' Jones,** our worthy Provost Sergeant; his warm character and bristling moustache have been missed in the Mess. We include a photograph of him as we suspect that he will be well remembered by many in the Corps. We wish him well in his new role as **Mr. Jones.**

On the social side this month we met our old rivals 28th Signal Regiment at a games evening. We endeavoured to return the hospitality shown to us at St. Tonis and judging by the reluctance of the visiting team to go home—we succeeded. An 'East of Suez' night was held on 26th September; with few exceptions everyone took advantage of the opportunity to get dressed up. There could be some truth in the rumour that **Sergeant John Horne** had some difficulty getting into camp in his Indian Beggar costume; however, inside the Mess a watchful eye was kept on the whole affair by **Mrs. Filder** who came as Race Relations observer.

Feeling rather peeved that the editor should cut out the punch line of our story of **Sergeant Jim Sherwin's** visit to Lapland, in the September-October notes, we wish to try again.

After 'powdered (ugh!) tomato soup,' insert:

'He eventually returned complete with antlers, having hitched the last few miles, smelling strongly of rice, reindeer and powdered tomato soup. The story goes that the driver who gave him a lift put the knapsack inside the car and our Jim on the roofrack!

(There now—what more can I do for you.—Editor).

Coming and going

Our best wishes to **Sergeant E. E. Jones** and **Sergeant M. H. Jackson** (Int. Corps) on their departure, and a welcome to **W.O.II R. G. Ross** and **Sergeant G. C. Langley** newly arrived.

(See page 539 for description of Corps (B.A.O.R.) cricket match against the Pioneers XI).

14th Signal Regiment
Worcester

Have Radio Station will travel

AT this time of year in U.K. the newspapers are again full of holiday advertisements; the reader is persuaded to go on such-and-such a cruise, or encouraged to winter sport elsewhere in the world—it seems from these papers that people are never still—just back from summer holidays, they are now to go abroad again for the winter. But who can really wonder? Even in this rather blasé, matter-of-fact age, there is still a certain amount of exhilaration in travel. If you are one of those who like moving around the world to unexpected places, and often at very short notice, then come and join us—based at Worcester.

14th Signal Regiment must surely be the most travelled of all the units of the Corps. Forget for ever, dear reader, the old 14th Regiment, which for many years did noble, but static and routine work in the COMCAN field, and take a look at the present highly-mobile 14th Signal Regiment of Army Strategic Command. To illustrate the point, today, as these notes are being written, the unit is deployed, as follows:

JORDAN.—A Troop from 1 Squadron, in Amman, providing a D13 rear link to Cyprus for 2 Field Ambulance.

ANGUILLA.—A D11 detchment, also of 1 Squadron, working through the Caribbean area to U.K.

NASSAU.—An E21 Troop of 2 Squadron, providing a link to U.K.

SINGAPORE.—A Troop of 3 Squadron at Amoy Quee, providing a TSC 500 rear link to U.K. via Skynet Satellite.

GERMANY.—A TACSATCOM station of 3 Squadron providing a satellite link for 1 (BR) Corps.

WORCESTER.—The ever-ready Spearhead D13 detachment of 1 Squadron awaits the next call.

CRIBBS CAUSEWAY.—The remainder of the Regiment attending annual training camp, including the detachment just back from France (Exercise 'Foxberry') and Gan Island (Exercise 'Palm').

So it will be seen that we are a pretty active Regiment—both hardworking and happy. If you would like to join us, and can convince both your own Commanding Officer and the Officer-in-Charge Records that you should, we shall be delighted to welcome you—but only if you have both the mental and physical flexibility to be "here today and gone tomorrow," as well as being capable of working a sustained 169-hour week, do we need you.

1 Squadron—Medium Radio, D13 and D11

The last notes from this Regiment concerned mainly the activities of 3 Squadron and listed, among other things, their recent successes, both at work and sport. These notes—as was hoped—prompted the following:

The Regimental Correspondent to THE WIRE,
14th Signal Regiment.

Dear Sir,

'The Wire' Notes—September/October Issue

The members of this Squadron are always happy to give encouragement to those less-favoured, higher numbered, sub-units of this Regiment. If they can only be attributed with winning the Regimental 'It's a Knockout Competition' and providing equipment for some display or other at the School of Artillery, why should we grumble? Even if not recorded in THE WIRE, we have the satisfaction of knowing that this Squadron was, after all, the first in Northern Ireland, Anguilla and Jordan, as well as being the last out of Libya.

Now the sporting gladiators of 'Complin's Company' are at last abroad. We wait with bated breath for the announcement that their UK/TSC 500 has been hi-jacked on its return flight. We hope that in this event they will be landed near Amman, where **Captain Hallchurch** and his stalwarts of 'B' Troop, 1 Squadron, will be at hand to get them out of trouble.

Yours etc.,

No. 1 (Hartshorn's Hundred) Squadron

Perhaps the best way to reply is to take the point and let 1 Squadron have their head in these notes, thus verbatim reports are published on Exercises 'Palm' and 'Shoveller' (see pages 505 and 506).

Recce for Exercise 'Vulcan'

O.C. 2 Squadron, **Major Richard Reynolds,** has recently carried out a reconnaissance for Exercise 'Vulcan,' being held in Nassau. A report from **Staff Sergeant Robert Paterson,** who accompanied his Squadron Commander on the recce, is given below:

As a prelude to Exercise 'Vulcan,' **Major R. A. F. Reynolds,** assisted by **Staff Sergeant Paterson,** carried out a recce in Nassau. The route taken by the recce party included New York and Bermuda. One need hardly dwell on the toughness of the assignment—it was, of course, irksome to think of the Regiment back home enjoying their late summer bank holiday.

Nassau, for those who haven't had to put themselves out to go there, bears all the marks of any colonial settlement. In any respect it is not unlike Singapore—very hot and fairly humid. The economy is geared to suit the Americans, and what costs 2s. 6d. in the U.K. costs 8s. 4d. in Nassau. But those beaches—oh boy!

Bermuda is, without doubt, the sort of place to retire to—if you have got the money and can stand the sailing, the night life and the sun. It takes a long time to get from one end of the island to the other—there's a speed restriction on all vehicles of 25 miles an hour. The local papers reported cases of motor cyclists travelling at 37 m.p.h. being heavily fined and banned from driving for six months or more.

In both islands the Royal Navy has fairly strong representation. The recce party was well looked after by the Senior Service.

Six weeks in Nassau should be very pleasant for 'E' Troop—but to check, **Major Reynolds** was obliged to pay a second visit. He strongly denies it has anything to do with getting a panic tan before going to Bahrain.

READING SOMEONE ELSE'S WIRE?
WHY NOT GET YOUR OWN COPY?

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

W.R.A.C. element—or a girl's eye view of recent activities

Canoeing

This year for the first time the B.A.O.R. Canoeing Championships included a women's event. Women of 16th Regiment entered both the slalom in April and the sprint in May. The events proved very exciting and as the canoeing experience had been limited to one weekend of instruction prior to the competition, the results were very encouraging.

During the weekend of 8th/9th August three members of the unit spent time in the River Lippe gaining experience in long-distance racing.

From 11th-17th September five members of the B.A.O.R. team were in training in Blandford, and they competed in the Army Canoe Championships in Nottingham from 18th-21st September. It was unfortunate that there was no opposition as they were the only women to enter the competition this year.

Exercise 'Pied Piper'

Exercise 'Pied Piper' was held over the Spring Holiday weekend. Together with members of the W.R.A.C. of H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps, switchboard operators from the Bielefeld exchange camped near the old German town of Hameln.

Exercise 'Summer Sales'

In June members of the Tape Relay Centre, Krefeld, together with switchboard operators from Bielefeld and Rheindahlen, went to Ottenstein, a small village in the hills above Hameln.

The 30 W.R.A.C. girls were accommodated in tents in a screened-off compound. The accommodation supplied by 4 Guards Brigade was palatial. The tents had wall-to-wall carpeting over duckboards and electric lighting. Even the wooden thunderboxes in the 'loos' had been padded with hessian. A full-time boiler stoker kept constant supplies of hot water going, and an electric iron and ironing board with duckboards was available.

The tape relay vehicle was manned for 24 hours per day by 'D' shift comprising both men and women. The hours were long, eights hours on and eight hours off shift. Working in the vehicle was a tight squeeze. It was very hot during the glorious days and remained hot and sticky during the balmy nights.

The switchboard operators helped to man the two field exchanges very capably, working a three-way shift. There were over 1,500 participants at exercise control, of whom over 400 were staff officers. Many a surprised look greeted the appearance of women on the exercise who were manning the switchboard and relay centre.

The Royal Military Police, a Corps not always noted for its sense of humour, provided a touch of light relief in its signposts. A sturdy tree opposite the W.R.A.C. area bore two large signs; the top one read 'R.E. Reproduction Unit' and the lower one 'W.R.A.C.'

Exercise 'Barn Dance'

One of the tourist attractions in Germany is the Mohne See. It is the beautiful lake of Dam-Buster fame. Arousing great interest amongst the sightseers in July was a train, standing on a track at a disused station. A British Military Ambulance Train was to be the home and H.Q. of 16th Regiment for the duration of Exercise 'Barn Dance.' For two weeks the Tape Relay Centre was to be above ground in its field role. The rumour that this was a holiday for 1 Squadron proved to be not entirely without truth. It is said a change is as good as a rest, and 'moles' of Krefeld were delighted to work above ground, in the fresh air for once.

Dressed in B.D. and green berets, the girls looked very fit and warlike. One tourist was convinced that they were a platoon of female marine commandos, "Ozervise vy zey look so fit?" The reason of course was obvious. One morning in two was spent carrying full buckets of water to the water boilers from the bowsers.

Exercise 'Lung Fish'

A small contingent of W.R.A.C. were extremely happy to join their male counterparts for the two weeks of Exercise 'Lung Fish' in August, especially once the beauty of the location of the exercise had been seen. The camp site stretched along one side of a picturesque lake near Huckswagen, a lake in which the water was remarkably clear.

The first week proved to be fairly hectic, with the experienced instructors taking every advantage of the poor weather to keep the contingent constantly active.

The sun appeared in the second week and activities became more leisurely and interspersed with sunbathing.

On Tuesday, 15th September, **Staff Sergeant D. E. Phillips** was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by **Colonel E. J. Bardell, O.B.E.,** at a parade held in Krefeld. Members of the unit are now looking forward to further adventure training exercises and plans are already processed for winter ski-ing.

17th Gurkha Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Commanding Officer	...	Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Dexter
Second-in-Command	...	Major T. E. D. Baxter
Adjutant	...	Captain A. F. Carter
G.M.	...	Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung
R.S.M.	...	W.O.I Damberbahadur Sen
O.C. 1 Squadron	...	Major P. J. Rowland
O.C. 2 Squadron	...	Major H. A. Cuerden
Q.M.	...	Captain G. Schofield
T.O.T.	...	Captain C. A. King

THE Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** made his first two visits to us on 28th September, two visits in great contrast. The first was for a Ceremonial Parade. On arrival, the General, as Colonel Gurkha Signals, inspected a quarterguard, and was photographed with all officers. After a courtesy call on the Garrison Commander, the General, accompanied by the Commanding Officer and the Gurkha Major, went on parade. After inspecting the parade and Pipes and Drums the General presented **Sergeant Omparsad Gurung** with his L.S. and G.C. medal.

A long-awaited occasion

The General addressed the parade in excellent Gurkhali and then took the salute at the march past. The monsoon held off and brilliant sun completed a long-awaited occasion, made even brighter by the beautiful saris of the Gurkha wives.

In the evening, the General was back in more relaxed mood for the Regimental draw. This is an all ranks' family evening, comprising tombola, tiger and tickets (for the draw!). Before the draw took place, the Gurkha Major welcomed the General and presented him with a silver-chased kukri, with which the General was obviously delighted.

The climax of the evening came when four young Gurkha girls drew numbers for prizes and ticket numbers. One of the tickets was the General's! Great excitement—and his prize? A packet of moth balls! At least they will keep his Gurkha Signals kit moth-free until we are again able to welcome our Colonel. Our next report will include the great Gurkha festival of Dashera.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

Visit of the Master of Signals to 18th Regiment

WHEN news of the Master of Signals' intended visit to Singapore in September reached us, we were doubly pleased. Not only would the visit prove a fitting climax to our own jubliee celebrations, but we would be glad to meet the Master so soon after taking up his appointment. We were fortunate to have him with us for so long a period, giving us the opportunity to meet him, not only at three Regimental functions, but at two Corps parties, the organisation of which were undertaken by the Regiment.

Regimental visit — 29th September

The Master's visit commenced at Tanglin, where the Regimental quarterguard, resplendent as ever, under command of

(Continued on page 519)

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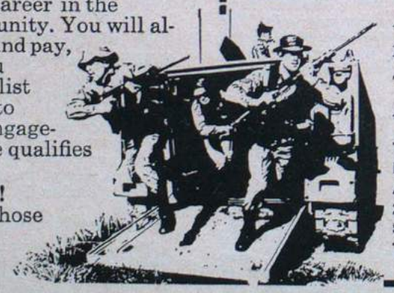

(Continued from page 517)

W.O.I Osman Tasi, was on parade precisely at 08.45 hours. After inspecting the guard, the Master was given a detailed briefing by the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hild,** the Acting Second-in-Command, **Major Charles Bushell,** and our new Operations Officer, **Major Alan Stutchbury,** who was treading the boards for the first time. The Master heard of the many changes which have taken place in the role and composition of the Regiment since his last visit. He took a keen interest in our plans for the run-down period, especially those involving the welfare of the soldiers and their families. And so to a tour of the Regiment to meet some old faces and make some new friends.

1 Squadron, by Captain Rob Brewis

In the commcen we met **Captain Max Nutt,** who introduced our Yeoman and operators, amongst whom was **Mrs. Nancy Cleghorn,** wife of **Staff Sergeant Alex Cleghorn,** R.A.P.C. (the mainstay of our Pay Office); **Mrs. Cleghorn** is having a second tour of duty as a civilian operator in the commcen. A brief look into TM Troop and **W.O.I John Howie,** who can well remember being promoted to Sergeant by the Master when he was Commanding Officer of 1 Corps Signal Regiment. Then a well-deserved glass of squash, where he met a few of the S.H.Q. personalities, including the oldest of the old faces, **Captain Robbie Laing** our Quartermaster (Technical).

In Line System Control, the Master met our only Haji in station, **Corporal Haji Amran Bin Megat Ahmad.** In fact, the Master was introduced to him three times. Once by **Captain Norman Walker,** once again because the Press wanted a photograph, and lastly, outside on the grass because the P.R. flash did not work.

In the telephone exchange, the Master found himself manning a position—at least he helped pass a booking docket from **Corporal Mairi Nielson,** W.R.A.C. Before he departed from the commcen, the Master met our two civilian cable men, **Mr. Chan** and **Mr. Boniface** and the line detachments from the BORs, LEPs and LECs.

To the Master we say "Terima kaseh, malapangkan masa tuan untok melawat kami," which means "we thank you, sir, for finding time to visit us."

249 Signal Squadron, by Major Hamish Mackinlay

A 'quick' move through Singapore's crawling and air-polluting traffic to the green fields of Dover Road, brought the Master to the cluster of huts and bashas which are 249 Signal Squadron winter quarters.

After meeting the S.H.Q. personalities, he had coffee in the Squadron Office, which gave time for a sight of the Squadron's trophies and scrapbook, so tenderly nurtured by **S.S.M. Taff Gundersen** and **Y. of S. Harry Cooke.**

'B' Troop's turn next, where **Lieutenant Geoffrey Strivens,** Gurkha Signals, introduced some of the D11 Gurkha crews. **Lieutenant John Maclean** and **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Balbir** did the honours for 'A' Troop, where the Master had some cheerful conversations with British and Gurkha members of the Troop.

A radio relay course, run by **Lieutenant Gordon,** Gurkha Signals, and **Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Balba bdr,** of 'R' Troop, came next. The objects of the course were explained to the Master, who was interested to hear that the medium of instruction was in Gurkhali, and that both instructors had qualified in their trade at Catterick.

F. of S. Tony Bateman showed the Master round his ever-growing empire, the Squadron telecommunication workshop. Here the Master was shown the secrets of running a workshop employing British, Gurkha and locally-employed technicians. A real Squadron stalwart came next, at the FATSO and R & I, **Sergeant 'Robbo' Robinson,** R.A.O.C., who is doing his third tour with the Corps, having already served in 206 Signal Squadron and 2 Signal Regiment in B.A.O.R. He likes us so much, he is hoping for a fourth tour. And so to our 'piece de resistance,' a D13 demonstration by two detachments of 'B' Troop under **Captain Bob Wright** and **F. of S. Pete Thornber.** One of the detachments was working a link to Melbourne, Australia, as part of the work-up for an exercise later in October. He used the link to pass his good wishes and hopes for the future to an old friend, **Colonel John Williamson,** the Director of Signals (Australia), and received a reply within 30 minutes.

HAPPY ENCOUNTER
General Bradley meets Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) Balbir of 249 Squadron. In background Major MacKinlay and (half hidden) W.O.II Gundersen

PRINCESS MARY CLUB
The Master of Signals has a cheerful discussion with a group in the Regimental Club

Lunch

And so to lunch in the Junior Ranks' Mess, where as the *Straits Times* put it the next day, "**General Bradley** queued up with his Signalmen for a buffet lunch." Is this really the first time a General has lunched in the Junior Ranks' dining hall? Later, the Orderly Officer received a reply of "no complaints" to the time-honoured question. After lunch, a quick change and off to the jungle in the waiting helicopter.

'The day of the General or the day the rain came down,' by Lieutenant David Moir

"The Master is airborne," a distant voice spluttered into the telephone. The permanent staff of Exercise 'Evergreen IX,' based on the Jungle Warfare School glanced anxiously at each other, immediately the lecture room became a hive of activity, questions being asked by everyone: Are the dogs ready? Has the soldier got his correct kit? Where is the jungle juice? Who has hidden my notes?

The dust was just settling as the familiar note of a Scout helicopter droned overhead. Five minutes later the Master

was being introduced to the permanent staff by **Major Dick Turpin,** the Exercise Camp Commandant. **Lieutenant John Stuart,** Weapon Training Officer; **Lieutenant David Moir,** officer-in-charge of training; **Second-Lieutenant Ted Crampton,** officer commanding the demonstration section, who managed to combine 'change-arms, order-arms and shake hands' into one movement, and **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Arthur Thomas.**

To start his visit to Exercise 'Evergreen,' the Master received a short presentation on the aims of the exercise and how the training was conducted. This presentation included the appearance of tracker and patrol dogs from 2 War Dog Training Unit of the Jungle Warfare School. As the official presentation ended, nature's presentation began, and the camp was engulfed in a tropical rainstorm. "This will pass in a few minutes," was the C.O.'s comment. Ten minutes later it was still raining, and the ground, in places, was in inch deep in water; nevertheless the 'umbrella patrol' set out on a tour of the camp, which ended in a rubber plantation, where the Master witnessed a demonstration of an area ambush, controlled by **Second-Lieutenant Ted Crampton.** At one stage there was a danger of the demonstration resembling more of a beach landing than an ambush, as the tropical storm continued with increased ferocity. After a brief word in Malay with the demonstration section, a very wet, but cheerful Master, retired to the Officers' Mess.

From here, Exercise 'Dry the General' was mounted. **Second-Lieutenant Ian Noble,** Gurkha Signals, the Master's A.D.C., put his shoes in the oven to dry and was almost served with burnt leather sole. **Major Dick Turpin** contacted the Jungle Warfare School Quartermaster and borrowed a jungle uniform. Dressed in jungle green, but without shoes or socks, the Master set about signing the visitors' book . . . will this lead to a new tradition from senior officers—to sign visitors' books in bare feet?

Warmed by tea and whisky, the Master left the Mess for the helipad, where the Scout was waiting. After a quick farewell, the Master and his entourage dashed through the rain for the helicopter. Within seconds the Scout was airborne and the Master's visit to Exercise 'Evergreen' was over.

(For the record, the 'passing shower' lasted three hours and five minutes).

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

MOST of the month has been taken up in domestic activity after our summer camps. Even with the U.E.I. and the vehicle repainting programme, we managed to field the Regiment for 'Falcon's Claw.' This exercise was a true trials exercise, with 3 Squadron in a Bruin role for the first time. We also welcomed **W.O.I (F. of S.) Gill** and his TACSATCOM stations and the S.H.F. team from S.R.D.E., who joined us for the exercise.

The cyclist

Early in August, **Signalman Lawrence Sargent** requested to take part in a charity cycle tour arranged by our W.R.V.S. Club. This was no cycle tour of Germany. On 19th September **Lawrence Sargent** returned with his leave pass stamped in John O'Groats and a collection of U.K. press cuttings! In company with three others from 27 Medium Regiment, R.A., he had cycled from Lippstadt to John O'Groats and then to Southampton. This achievement was in aid of the Spastics and the Blind. **Signalman Sargent** admits he would do it again!

Sport

The coming of autumn was the signal for our inter-Troop cross-country competition. This was convincingly won by 'B' Troop of 1 Squadron. **Corporal 'Geordie' Venus** was once again the individual winner. There are rumours that the rugby players have started training.

WIRE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dear Correspondents,

Please do not send me colour photographs, negatives, postcards from Brighton, or snaps from Aunt Mabel's 1920 box Brownie. Just send me good, glossy, black and white prints—if possible by P.R.—if you want them in THE WIRE, and our splendid friendship will not be ruined.

THE EDITOR.

EXCHANGE OF GIFTS

W.O.II (F. of S.) Staniford on posting and promotion receives a silver coffee service from the members of the W.O.'s and Sergeant's Mess. In return W.O. Staniford hands over a president's gavel and block to W.O.I (R.S.M.) McGiluray. Accompanying their husbands are Mrs. Staniford and Mrs. McGilvray

Personal happenings

W.O.I (F. of S.) Reg Staniford left us on commissioning as Captain (T.O.T.), after what must be a record for farewell parties. At a cocktail party on Saturday, 12th September, the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and their ladies officially said farewell to him and his wife, Jean. A silver coffee service was presented to the **Stanifords,** and the Mess was surprised to receive, in return, a new inscribed Chairman's gavel and block. No doubt **'Fozz' Staniford** remembered the dull thud when he hit the present gavel at the last Mess function. He will be missed by us all, and we wish him every success in his new appointment in Colchester.

A labour of love

Lebenshilfe is a voluntary organisation whose aims and objectives are directed towards providing help and assistance for mentally handicapped children. It is organised on a national basis and has won recognition by the West German government. The Lippstadt sub-committee, of which **Mrs. Pheda Byram** is a very active member, is currently engaged in building a school for mentally handicapped children which, it is planned, should be opened in April, 1971. In September of this year, the Regiment sent out envoys in six 3-ton vehicles to the various residential areas of Lippstadt, and they were charged with the task of collecting clothing for sale in Holland. The money realised from such sales will be used to help finance the school project. This labour of love, the fourth in two years, was therefore a worthwhile venture, and once again received the grateful thanks of the Lebenshilfe.

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WINNERS OF NORTHAG SIGNAL SUPPORT GROUP SPORTS COMPETITION

I Squadron were overall winners and posed with their cup in cheerful mood. The eggs suggest a possible use for the cup

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Knell, Lance/Corporal Jones, Lance/Corporal Riley, Signalman Barron, Corporal Hitchins, Lance/Corporal Vince, Lance/Corporal Licence, Signalman Burton, Lance-Corporal Monton, Lance-Corporal Clarke, Signalman Wykes

Kneeling/Sitting: Signalman Walton, Lieutenant Martin, Major Copeland (Squadron Commander), Captain Burns

28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) B.F.P.O. 35

Commanding Officer	...	**Lieutenant-Colonel I. MacDonald**
Second-in-Command	...	**Major A. Coates**
Adjutant	...	**Captain M. J. P. Vann / Captain P. J. K. Dickinson**
R.S.M.	...	**W.O.I B. Turner**
H.Q. Squadron	...	**Major F. V. B. Philp**
		W.O.II R. A. Jones
1 Squadron	...	**Major D. L. Copeland**
		W.O.II C. J. Walton
2 Squadron	...	**Major P. A. Thompson**
		W.O.II F. T. Toole

A FRANCISCAN 'ODE TO AUTUMN'

An autumn ditty

The Adjutant and R.S.M., with badge upon his sleeves,
Looked sadly at Francisca Square, and oh so many leaves.
"If seven men with seven brooms swept for half a year,
Do you suppose," the Captain said, "that they could sweep it clear?"
"I doubt it," said the R.S.M., and shed a bitter tear.

(With apologies to all concerned, including the Editor!)

A Franciscan autumn fair

The annual fair was held on 12th September in Francisca Barracks. The gods provided the usual Francisca weather—high winds, showers, with just a little sunshine. Franciscans and their families braved the unpredictable weather and turned up in large numbers to support this popular annual event. Bargains galore were available! Where else would a Franciscan get a chance to duck (in very cold water) a handsome and popular Squadron Commander or an R.S.M. (all 6ft. 8in. of him), or an overweight temporary Adjutant, for a mere 20 pfennigs? Or where could one buy such Franciscan bargains in cakes, fancy goods, flowers, white elephants, tinned goods, from the most attractive stalls provided and organised by the Regimental Wives' Club under the leadership of **Mrs. Judy MacDonald?** There was something for everyone—all departments of the Regiment willingly spent much of their spare time and leisure to ensure the success of the Fair; soldiers from the R.A.P.C., R.P.C., A.C.C., R.E.M.E., R.E., R.A.O.C., A.P.T.C. and the Belgian Radio Squadron (13 Cie TTr) all gave valuable assistance.

In the later part of the afternoon the weather deteriorated into a downpour—but happy Franciscans and their families departed homewards clutching their precious bargains, whilst the Pay Staff, with the 'Fair Treasurer,' **Major V. W. Beckhurst, M.C.,** R.A.P.C., worked late into the night counting out some DM5,000 in 10 pfennigs pieces! As a result of this enterprise the Regiment has been able to make a donation to the welfare funds of some nine Corps organisations, not forgetting, of course, the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. (A most generous donation of £100 was received.—Editor).

The N.S.S.G. sports meeting

This year was the first time that a sports meeting had been organised for the units of NORTHAG Signals Support Group. The emphasis was on team performance at Company and Squadron level.

There were four sports, volleyball, soccer, swimming and athletics. Four nationalities, Belgian, Dutch, German and British took part. The Regiment produced three teams for each event. The soccer and volleyball competitions were run on a league basis, and they culminated on two days, 24th/25th

September, when the volleyball and soccer finals were played and there were swimming and athletic meetings. All these events took place in perfect weather at Rheindahlen.

The Regiment was tasked with the responsibility of organising the athletic meeting; in fact, not only did we organise it, we actually won it, 1 Squadron and 2 Squadron taking first and second places respectively.

The prizes were presented by the Commander NORTHAG Signal Support Group, **Oberst H. J. Mischke,** German Army.

Regimental successes were:

Athletics: Winner, 1 Squadron, 28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG); 2nd, 2 Squadron, 28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG).

Tug-of-war: Won by 1 Squadron, 28th (BR) Signal Regment (NORTHAG).

Individual winners: Cross-country, Lance-Corporal T. A. Hope, 2 Squadron; 1500 metres, Corporal G. L. Crossland, H.Q. Squadron; 400 metres, Signalman T. Jones, 1 Squadron; 100 metres, Lance-Corporal R. M. Monton, 1 Squadron; 4 x 100 metres, 2 Squadron, 28th (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG); hammer, Signalman R. A. Towers, H.Q. Squadron; high jump, Corporal T. Alderton, 2 Squadron.

Noted failures: The log race team, led by the Commanding Officer, which was disqualified for blatant cheating.

Fran-Orient 70, by Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) A. J. Whydell

Since the beginning of the year, orienteering has been a word on nearly everyone's lips in Francisca Barracks. People just cannot believe how much pleasure we derive from running around the countryside, clutching map and compass, frantically looking for little red and white markers.

Although we have suffered the usual setbacks, such as not having a suitable training area close at hand, and the maps that we require no longer being produced, we have still managed to gain a great deal of experience. Our goal for this year was to get the whole team to England for the Army Championships, but we were forced into second place by a very strong team from 21st Signal Regiment in the qualifying Rhine Area meeting. Although we will not now go to England as a team, we will be well represented by **Signalman Trevor Jones,** of 1 Squadron, to whom we all wish "Good luck." In the local league, we contributed towards the general organisation by running a competition at Huls, near Krefeld. This proved a little embarrassing for our Orienteering Officer, **Lieutenant Chris Wollaston,** who presented the first seven prizes to our own team. Even though fingers still point, and voices mumble, I still say we kept the course a close secret until the competition day.

One problem that we are still left with is how to stop people from removing our checkpoint markers. On the last competition we left **Signalman 'Zipp' Turner,** of 1 Squadron, sitting by the marker. We did get the marker back that time, but unfortunately we did not get the rubber stamp and ink pad back So, **Signalman 'Zipp' Turner,** now serving in 222 Signal Squadron, how about letting us have our stamp back please?

30th Signal Regiment
BLANDFORD CAMP

REGIMENTAL EXERCISE

SEPTEMBER has been an extremely busy month in the Regiment. Apart from the mounting of the radio detachments for the International Red Cross in Jordan, which readers will see elsewhere in THE WIRE, the Regiment has deployed a further two Squadrons overseas: the departure of 3 and 4 Squadrons was preceded by a Regimental exercise to work up the detachments, operators and Squadron control organisations at Keevil and on the Salisbury Plain training area. Exercise 'Double Edge,' control was organised by **Major Nick Williams,** and the radio detachments of 1 Squadron provided additional C42 detachments and rear links to Blandford and 4 Squadron. AMF(L) Force Radio Troop control was also based on 'Evil Keevil.'

Livening-up with five rounds of Howitzer fire

The exercise started with a move to a concentration area at Bovington in the pouring rain, which is to be expected for these occasions. From this location, the key party detachments

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of 3 Squadron were deployed along a much-used river line at the eastern end of the training area, whilst 1 and 3 Squadrons moved to the control area north of Warminster. Meanwhile, 4 Squadron, under command of **Lieutenant Peter Whitehead,** moved directly to a sylvan glade sited just off the field firing target area. The targets they had in mind were the unsuspecting radio operators of the 1 and 3 Squadron detachments. Unknown to 4 Squadron, the Battery Commanders of 17th Field Regiment, R.A., had other targets to consider, and realism was added when the first five rounds from a howitzer exploded in the nearby target area. The range warden unconcernedly reassured the O.C. and **S.S.M. Tony Waugh** that the location was perfectly satisfactory. It must have been a popular spot, because Day 3 of the exercise brought a complete Battalion of Infantry to the same area, and the off-duty operators were able to witness a Company in advance.

Up goes the chicken lunch

Back at Keevil, the DS Staff were busily settling into their newly-discovered headquarters location in an old pig-sty, and the pungent odours of rotting, mouldy straw were swept away and partially obliterated by liberal applications of Jeyes Fluid. The administrative element were certainly more comfortable, in an old hangar. The cooks, under **Sergeant Doug Price,** hardly gave the concrete floor a thought, but it is with regret that we report that the concrete erupted beneath the burners with a loud bang, and the explosion caused the rapid ascent towards the heavens of an excellent chicken lunch. **Captain Rollo Rumford,** with H.M.S. *Fearless* Signal Troop acting as the Defence Platoon, suspected that **Lieutenant Hugh Smith** and **Corporal 'Dinger' Bell** had arrived with their MPC I Course as the 'enemy.' Meanwhile, the Second-in-Command, who was off visiting the isolated detachments of 3 and 4 Squadrons, continued to savour the prospect of a good lunch upon return to control.

During the first afternoon, much time and energy was put into the siting and training of the Defence Platoon and getting 'stand-to' drills correct. During the evening three prisoners were successfully captured, but they failed to reveal any information of value, and the enemy attack finally came at 02.00 hours the following morning.

Thirty-six radio vehicles in action

Throughout the exercise the communications were kept busy by 4 Squadron interfering with 3 Squadron's nets and putting the pressure on **Yeoman Dave Dyke** and **Sergeant Bud Rogers** in radio control. Several rebroadcast detachments were changed over as a result of 'enemy' action, and the TSBs were all given a thorough test so that all 36 radio vehicles in the Troop were brought fully into action by the end of the three days. The exercise was completed by a further deployment of the HF key parties for good measure.

The 4 Squadron element stayed out for a further two days and switched its rear link direct to Blandford. This gave the Squadron a good opportunity to 'shake-down' now that it is almost completely back in Blandford for the first time for a year, with only a very limited number in Northern Ireland.

During the exercise we were pleased to have a visit from the Group Commander, **Colonel E. J. Winn,** but it was tough about that lunch . . . We also record that the exercise marked the appearance of our W.R.A.C. Officers, **Lieutenant Sue McWade** and **Second-Lieutenant Hilary Owen,** who have asked to come out again.

Reunion dinner

We were very pleased at the response to the invitation to past members of 29 Independent Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron to the reunion dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, organised by **R.S.M. Henry Jennings.** The visitors included **Colonel 'Tubby' Marshall, O.B.E., Major Kevin Kirby, Major George Dibley, R.S.M. Ron Crampton,** amongst several who travelled considerable distances to be present to join **W.O.I (F. of S.) Brian Flint** and **Sergeant Jim Shield.**

The Sergeants' Mess staff have also been busy during the past month with the Harvest Festival lunch. Thank you, **Mr. Lomax** and staff, for your help to the station church. Other Mess activities have included a Continental dinner evening arranged by **A.Q.M.S. Brockway** between fishing trips with the White Swan Angling Club.

Farewell

We sadly record the departure from the Service of **Major Jim Cheshire** and **Major Jerry Boast,** who have served the Corps for 28 and 19 years respectively. We wish them and their families the best of luck for the future; they will be sadly missed. Although **Major Jim Cheshire** has only been with us a short time, he has made himself well known as the Unit Families' Officer, and **Major Gerry Boast** will be remembered by many junior N.C.O.s and Signalmen who he helped obtain essential qualifications for their careers.

News from Squadrons

20 Armoured Brigade Signal Sqn. (200) B.F.P.O. 41

Border patrol

IN June the Squadron performed its first border patrol along the Helmstedt sector of the East German frontier. After the experience there were plenty of volunteers for the next patrol in September.

Although the departure from barracks was wet and cold, enthusiasm for the venture could hardly have been dampened with the presence of such cheery fellows as **Lance-Corporal Pete Worboys** and **Signalman 'Sandy' Sands.**

We drove up to Stocken and 'camped' in a room adjoining the Gasthaus 'Goldhorn,' as is customary on such outings, and after an excellent meal cooked by **Lance-Corporal Dave Mason** retired to the bar for a few rounds of cards.

The next day was a good one (despite a few heavy heads) and after breakfast and final preparation we set off for the border. We started the patrol at the north of our sector and systematically moved southwards, sometimes along the track which actually runs on the demarcation line, or along a metalled road. At various points we stopped to observe wire fences, minefields, watch towers, dog runs, observation posts and the occasional working party who, under the supervision of an almost equal number of guards, were busy erecting wire mesh fencing to replace the rusting barbed wire which has been there since the end of the war. At some points we patrolled on foot, sending the vehicles on ahead to an R.V. The British Frontier Service official who accompanied us kept up a running commentary on life on the border, pointing out personalities on both sides, and keeping us informed on what changes had taken place at the points we visited. Hot and dusty, we returned at about 5.00 p.m.

That evening, the gymnasium-cum-village hall in which we were living was transformed into the scene of a fierce bowling competition which started with no rules and ended up with a very complex system of scoring which left **Lance-Corporal Chas. Marshall,** R.C.T., with the highest score, plus a round of drinks to pay for.

The following morning we packed up our 'camp' and continued the patrol, observing more working parties, a divided village and some drilling for natural gas. The patrol ended in the afternoon and very soon we were making all haste down the autobahn back to barracks. Everyone agreed the patrol had been a very successful and interesting operation and we all look forward to others next year.

Visit by the C.S.O., B.A.O.R.

On Friday, 10th July, the C.S.O., B.A.O.R., **Major-General D. R. Horsfield, O.B.E.,** visited the Squadron. His somewhat early arrival nearly caught the quarter guard napping; however, the quick action of our then second R.S.M., **W.O.I H. G. Arnold,** saved the day. After the inspection, the C.S.O. met the Squadron Officers in the O.C.'s office for coffee. The General was then taken on a tour of the various departments of the Squadron, ending with a short demonstration of the main H.Q. complex laid out on the square. He visited the Sergeants' Mess for a pre-lunch drink before lunching with the Brigade Commander, members of his staff and the Squadron Officers.

BORDER PATROL

Sergeant Mick Palmer with his patrol of 20 Armed Brigade Signal Squadron (Frontier Force)

Change of faces

Our O.C., **Major Dudley Carnie, M.B.E.,** was suddenly whisked away in June to be educated at the Joint Services' Staff College. We wish both he and his wife the very best and a pleasant stay in England. **Major 'Paddy' Vernon** has succeeded him at short notice and is fast becoming well established. We bid him and his wife a very warm welcome.

Very shortly afterwards **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Mercer** took off for England too, and his replacement, **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Arnold** arrived, leaving no one in any doubt as to whom the Brigade square really belongs.

Stop Press!

We would like, in addition, to congratulate you on being selected for the exalted rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, **Major Carnie.**

You may have noticed that these notes cover a long period; they appear to have lain in a few 'in' trays for correction, editing and sub-editing!

4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (204) B.F.P.O. 17

SUMMER CAMP

Hills and wine

BRIEDERN, in the Mosel Valley, could have been Holland with hills and wine. The area we had chosen for our summer camp in July turned out to be popular as a Dutch holiday resort which was good news for us as, quite unplanned, each week's activities became Anglo-Dutch in flavour. Of course we had to do our battle P.T. tests and a couple of pre-planned events including a 'getting to know the area' exercise which, judging by some of the places we had to find, gave us the impression that **Captain Ryding** must have had a most interesting recce.

Top marks for initiative during the camp must go to **Lance-Corporal Restan, Signalman Toole** and **Signalman Keegan** who, when walking across a bridge on the 'getting to know the area' exercise were spoken to by **Mr. Vest** from a four-ton truck. As the truck moved off to visit other check points they jumped into the back and completed the exercise in style, finally leaving the truck 100 metres from camp.

We were fortunate to have a Dutch holiday camp just around the corner which gave us the opportunity to try our talents at football and volleyball by day, dancing and barbeques by night. To relieve the monotony of one excitement after another there was always fishing or a quiet trip in one of our four recce boats.

Fishing has its setbacks

King of the fishing scene was **Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Hazelgrove** who turned up on the second week with kit used for barracuda fishing. His trouble was that nobody could find him a worm big enough for his hooks which had last seen service off Singapore. Undaunted he changed to smaller hooks and set about fishing; his impressive array of tackle included various glass fibre rods, etc. To his chagrin he didn't catch enough fish to cover the bottom of a Mess tin.

An M.S.O. fishing next to him kept catching huge fish with a bamboo rod, string and a bent pin! Bitten by the fishing bug (and the thought of hours doing nothing) **Sergeants Gatehouse** and **Carim** went to the local town and bought themselves a 'complete angling kit' each for DM4.00. First time out they had a casting competition which ended in a dead heat, as neither angler managed to reach the water! To everyone's amusement the rods were four foot long and the reels had only six foot of line.

Fond memories!

Everyone has his own memories of summer camp. Among these are **Mr. Vest's** midnight attempt to remove his thumb; the M.S.O. cooking the most incredible assortment of local fish and actually eating them!; the cherry trees surrounding the camp which were in fruit; the Anglo-Dutch sports day and dance in the evening; the wine bottling factory; the wine festivals in the area; the beautiful scenery; and the barbeques by the river at which we taught the locals a few songs (mostly unprintable) which we gather are now being sung at wine festivals up and down the valley. What a pity it all had to end.

And some cricket too

At Episkopi we recently held our Inter-Troop cricket competition, with teams entered from East Troop, West Troop, Q.M. and 3rd Line West, S.H.Q. and Engineering Troop. Although the standard of play, or for that matter the umpiring, were not quite up to M.C.C. standards, the players enjoyed the cricket and all enjoyed the buffet and drinks in the R.R. bar at the end of play.

Organisation for the day was provided by **Staff Sergeant George Leiper,** Troop Staff Sergeant, West Troop, who not only organised pitches, kit, drinks and buffet, but also stood calm and cool weathering all insults as one of the umpires. The eventual winners were West Troop, with the Q.M. and 3rd Line West side runners-up.

Finally we welcome **W.O.II (S.S.M.) Cyril Courtenay** who arrives to take up the post of Squadron Sergeant-Major, and bid farewell to **W.O.II (S.S.M.) John Kelly** who departs for the wilds of Tidworth.

Thank you

Finally, special mention to thank the 'permanent staff' — **Superintendent Nickaolovic** and his M.S.O. men who took over most of the chores from us, and the cooks, **Sergeant Constable, Lance-Corporal Spencer, Privates Harris, McMillan** and **Jones,** who fed us very well indeed.

We now look forward to October of this year when a number of the Squadron are returning to the Mosel to pick grapes—news of which in our next WIRE notes. In the meantime we are working up to the autumn exercises, but that is yet another story!

Sport

The Squadron had a successful year by winning the 4th Division Minor Units Athletics and coming second in the B.A.O.R. Final.

The notable athletes were **Corporal Murray,** 400 metres, who never lost a race all season, and **Trooper Reeve,** who after a long illness produced his best to win the 200 metres in both the 4 Division and B.A.O.R. events. Other athletes were **Lance-Corporal Moore, Lance-Corporal Restan, Lance-Corporal Holmes, Guardsman Chenery, Lieutenant Vest, Corporal Walton, Captain Walker, Sergeant Richardson** and **Guardsman Minnis.**

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19 Airportable Brigade Signal Squadron (209) Colchester

THE Squadron has now returned from block leave and has again entered the swing of military life after the pleasant months spent in Malaysia. All Troops are fully committed on exercises and have changed their jungle green for combat suits.

'A' Troop lost **Lieutenant Gerry Maddren** and **Staff Sergeant Marr** and the new management sign on the door reads: **Lieutenant Cliff Walters** and **Staff Sergeant Birmingham.** In fact there has been a great turnover of 'A' Troop members and it would be impossible to name them all. However, those who read this column after leaving us should know that we appreciated their friendship and wish them every success in their new jobs. The Squadron O.C. finally managed to rid Cherry Tree Camp of **Sergeant Chisholm,** even if it is only for four months in N. Ireland, when he will be back once more.

'J' Troop has also lost and gained many members. Our thanks go to those who have left and our 'welcome' to newcomers has been said. The biggest event outside of exercises has been the marriage of **Lieutenant David Strudley.** We wish to extend our warmest congratulations to him and **Mrs. Strudley;** may they be blessed with a happy life together and numerous 'harmonics.'

Large turnover of bodies

'Q' Troop, 'M' Troop, L.A.D., M.T., 'D' and 'E' Platoon and of course S.H.Q. all struggle on despite the large turnover of bodies. The list of leavers is too large for comfort but all newcomers have quickly settled in. The Squadron Office seems very changed without the toothless grin of **O.R.S.Q.M.S. Smith** and the loud blue shirt of the Admin. Officer, **Captain John Heason.** Both are missed and we envy them the duty-free 'fags' of B.A.O.R. Our 'Kings Man' is replaced by **Captain Don Stokes,** who still finds our jargon difficult to understand. Given a couple of years and he will be added to our list of educated infanteers.

Perhaps the biggest block turnover has been in the 'D' and 'E' Platoon. Not only has **Staff Sergeant Clapperton** left us, but also eight other 'chunkies.' To their replacements we can only say, "Do as well as your predecessors and you'll be O.K."

M.T. and L.A.D. are these days rarely seen without a pot of paint in their hands. The Squadron vehicles are all being painted to look like trees. "The M.T.O. always looks like a tree," was one remark heard by the R.C.T. contingent.

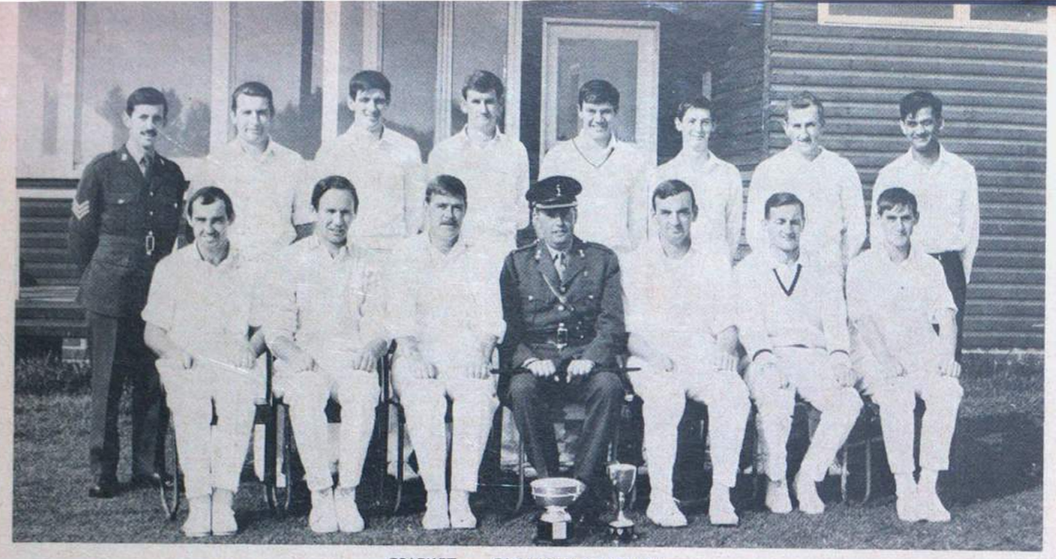
Exercise 'Crystal Palace'

The whole of Brigade Headquarters deployed for the exercise, which coincided with the break in the good weather! All new arrivals found the whole thing puzzling—the night moves, the camouflage, the orders shouted in the dark. Few had much sleep and many found themselves dealing with new equipment. The sudden appearance of unusual vehicles and 'things' from 3rd Signal Regiment added excitement to the proceedings—not to mention the hours spent by the F. of S. and his boys in trying to sort out one particularly stubborn circuit. It was all quite different from Tebrau and the Sky Hotel, even the books are different!

Other events

So far we have shot, been gassed, 'bashed' 10 miles, learnt first aid and had a pretty hectic September. The next few weeks will see us under the microscope when U.E.I. teams descend upon us and we prepare for the F.F.R in December. One thing is certain, it cannot get any worse—as a certain soccer team said when the Squadron was leading 10-0.

Finally a word of thanks to all who have been posted out of the Squadron. The list of names is long and everyone contributed his bit to the Squadron efficiency regardless of his cap badge, and we are indebted.



CRICKET . . . GLORIOUS CRICKET!

The score stood at 142 for 9—one more run meant defeat. Then a miracle catch and 11 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron had won the BAOR Cricket Final. It was a thrilling climax to a memorable and exciting cricket season for the Squadron. They had played fourteen games in a row without defeat

The victory team, *back row, left to right:* Sergeant Briggs, Corporal Parker, Sergeant Peacock, Corporal Collens, Signalman Preece, Private Townsend, Lance-Corporal Gillett, Lance-Corporal Barnes

Front row, left to right: Corporal Crook, Captain Holt, Staff-Sergeant Weir, Major Corden (O.C.), Captain Brown, Sergeant Borton, Signalman Hudson

11th Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (211) B.F.P.O. 29

OUR SPORTING WORLD

Cricket

The Squadron has just completed a truly memorable season. Apart from **Staff Sergeant Weir** and his team enjoying the game they have brought pleasure to many spectators through the summer with the exciting cricket that has been played.

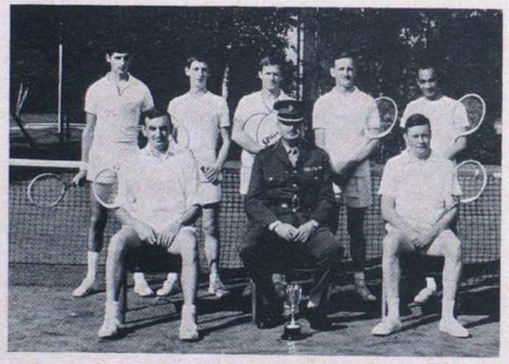
The season started in May and the first two games, when the team was taking shape, were both lost. However, since 20th May the Squadron played 14 matches, including playing against Major Units, Divisional Headquarters and cup matches, without defeat. Only on one occasion did any team manage to bowl the Squadron out.

Fielding and team spirit played the major part in the successful season and this gave confidence to the bowlers and batsmen to take the wickets and get the runs.

The climax of the season was on Friday, 4th September, when the Squadron played 17 B.V.D. in the B.A.O.R. final, having already won the 1 Division cup. With 143 for 9 on the board it looked as though we had scored enough. However, 17 B.V.D. were soon 141 with two wickets left. Then 142 for 9. **Sergeant Briggs** was bowling and it looked odds on the batting team winning by one wicket. However, instead of waiting for the odd single the batsman hit **Sergeant Briggs** hard and high. The ball seemed to hang in the air as the batsmen crossed for the first run. None of the fielders relished the idea of 'volunteering' to make the attempt for such a vital catch. As the batsmen started on their second run, confident **Sergeant Briggs** was seen to be wiping his hands on his trousers and calling "Mine." To a tremendous shout from the rest of the team he held the catch and the Squadron had won the B.A.O.R. trophy by one run.

Tennis

Having been runners-up in the Divisional Major Units final last year we hoped to do better this year. Fortunately we did so on 20th September by convincingly defeating 1 Div. H.Q. and Signal Regiment, to become the first Minor Unit to win the Divisional Major Units Championship.



THE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

11 Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron's tennis team which convincingly won the Divisional Major Units Championship—the first time a minor unit has done so

Back row, left to right: Lance-Corporal Horman, Private Townsend, Major Trinkwon, Sergeant Borton, Staff-Sergeant Francis

Front row, left to right: Captain Brown, Brigadier T. M. Creasey, O.B.E., Major Corden

As with the cricket team the tennis team had depth and the reserve pair would have played in most other unit teams. The pairings were:

1st pair, **Brigade Commander** and **Major Trinkwon;** 2nd pair, **Major Corden** and **Staff Sergeant Francis;** 3rd pair, **Captain Brown** and **Lance-Corporal Horman;** reserve pair, **Sergeant Borton** and **Private Townsend.**

On the way to the final the team defeated Hildesheim Garrison and 7 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron.

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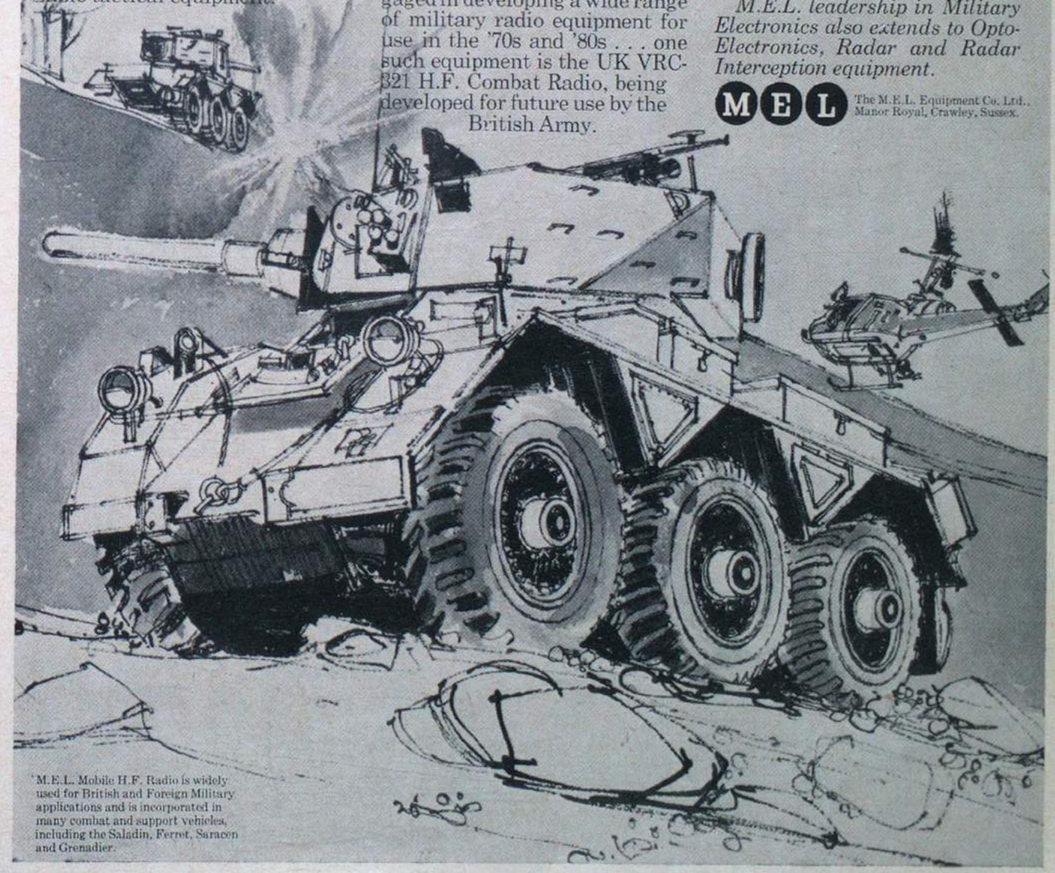

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12 Mech. Bde. Signal Sqn.
(212) B.F.P.O. 36

Squadron athletics

THE Squadron athletics was won this year by 'A' Troop. Star performers who won the various events were as follows:

200 metres, **Signalman Engering,** 'T' Troop; 800 metres, **Signalman Thompson,** 'A' Troop; high jump, **Lance-Corporal Russell,** 'B' Troop; javelin, **Lance-Corporal Worth,** 'A' Troop; shot, **Corporal Smith,** L.A.D.; 1500 metres, **Signalman Thompson,** 'A' Troop; 400 metres, **Lance-Corporal Russell,** 'B' Troop; long jump, **Signalman Ellis,** 'B' Troop; discus, **Corporal Smith,** L.A.D.

The tug-of-war was won by 'Bravo' Troop.

P.R.E.

The P.R.E. has now passed—sighs of relief from everyone! Our photographs show **Signalman Davenport** putting the finishing touches to his vehicle and **Corporal Gavillet** with **Lance-Corporal McFarlane** servicing the AFV 439.

'A' Troop (Hills Angels)

'A' Troop have voiced a plaintive cry that as they comprise the largest part of the Squadron, they should be included in the act.

Airborne Wandeltocht

Twenty-four members of the Squadron went to Oosterbeck on 12th September on the 28 km. commemorative march of the Battle of Arnhem. We were very well looked after by the Dutch Army and we returned, rewarded by a large cup, a plaque, and a medal each.

"HELL ANGELS"

A group from A Troop of 12 Mechanical Brigade Signal Squadron—they call themselves 'Hell Angels'—get in on the act. (For explanation see unit notes)

Left to right: Signalman Wooldridge, Lance-Corporal Glennon, Corporal Williams, Signalman Warrilow, Captain R. Drew Communications Officer, Signalman Manderson, Signalman Wilson, Lance-Corporal Shepherd

48 Gurkha Inf. Bde. Signal Squadron
(246) B.F.P.O. 1

Hong Kong summer

HONG KONG'S long hot summer is now coming to a close. With its heat, humidity and rain there have been several alerts for tropical storms and typhoons. It is significant that everyone so far has brought us to alert over the weekend. Mostly they can only be described as 'non events' and the old China hands are heard to say that typhoons now are not what they used to be.

The lack of major exercises has led us to take part in community relations schemes and searches for escaped prisoners and a Squadron picnic. We have also devoted time to swimming and water polo. The Brigade water polo side is mainly British but the inter-Troop standard is improving quickly. This is mainly due to the experience and enthusiasm of the Officer Commanding, **Major Livingstone.**

Swimming successes

The Squadron swimming team has enjoyed great success this year. It was led and encouraged by **Lieutenant John Stokoe** who has since left for U.K. to do a course and collect the Whistler trophy.

On 19th August the Squadron won the 48 Gurkha Brigade Minor Units Championship. The following week, on 26th August, the Squadron won the Royal Signals Hong Kong Inter-Squadron swimming gala. It also had a good win in the water polo match. No doubt 252 Signal Squadron, who usually do well in this, will be after us next year. Meanwhile we are looking for someone to make up for the loss of the O.C. when he goes home in April, 1971. As usual he says this is his last year in competitive swimming.

On Wednesday, 2nd September, the Squadron pulled off the hat-trick and won the Hong Kong Land Forces Minor Units Swimming Championships in the 48 Brigade pool at Sek Kong. This was a very exciting day and the competition was only won on the last medley relay race.

THEY DID THE HAT-TRICK

48 Gurkha Brigade Signal Squadron's swimming team have had a great season and by winning the Hong Kong Land Forces Minor Units Swimming championships, they completed a hat-trick of successes

Seated, left to right: Driver Harkabahadur Gurung, Major T. C. Livingstone, Lieutenant J. D. Stokoe (Captain), Captain M. P. Walker, Signalman Balser Rai

Standing, left to right: Captain M. Willis, Captain C. Hyland, Signalman Gambahadur Pun, Sergeant Boyle, Corporal Blackwood, Corporal Carr, C.S.M.I. Bent

Movements

We welcome **Second-Lieutenant Adrian Schuler** who has come from 17th Gurkha Signal Regiment in Singapore. **Sergeant Boyle** has returned from a stay in Nepal as the relief cipher operator for **Sergeant Robertson** who went on leave. We also welcome **Corporal Rann** on his first tour with us as a cipher operator, and **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Simpson** back into Gurkha Signals. His arrival now makes our British element, who are altogether an attribute to the Squadron, complete.

RADIO TROOP 222 SIGNAL SQUADRON (SHARJAH)—THEY REALLY GO PLACES

Standing, (back row): Corporal Durrant, Signalman Bolton, Signalman Martin, Lance-Corporal Newman, Corporal Wood, Signalman Harrison Lance-Corporal McCrandles, Corporal Thorne, Signalman Mockford, Lance-Corporal Perkins, Signalman Graham, Signalman Birbeck

Standing, (Second row): Lance-Corporal Cooney, Corporal McInnes, Lance-Corporal Robison, Lance-Corporal Howard, Signalman Cooke, Corporal Crawford, Signalman Ward, Signalman Rylance, Corporal Gibson, Lance-Corporal Turaga

Standing (Third row): Corporal Babb, Signalman Lamb, Lance-Corporal Pearson, Signalman Skillen, Signalman Falconer, Corporal Herbden, Signalman Galpin, Signalman Lee, Lance-Corporal Green, Lance-Corporal Hussey

Sitting: Sergeant Foulger, Sergeant Crumbie, Staff-Sergeant Chambers, Captain McCann, Staff-Sergeant (Y. of S.) Kendall, Sergeant Shergold, Sergeant Threlfall-Searson

222 Signal Squadron (Sharjah)
B.F.P.O. 64

THE Squadron notes this month feature Radio Troop.

A mere 500 miles is nothing

The Troop has had many exercises recently, the last being a Troop exercise called 'Tribal Dance.' During this exercise we were re-supplied by Andover air drops (for a Troop exercise); unfortunately the photographer forgot to take his lens cover off for we ought to have had a photo of the event. The exercise area was the East Coast of the Trucial States, also an ideal spot for a dip. There seemed to be more spear fishing done than communicating, and the whole exercise terminated with a school of whale sharks arriving into the bay. We then left for Sharjah post haste! Detachments have been as usual scattered far and wide throughout the Trucial States, the run to Muscat town with 90 Squadron R.C.T. (a mere 500 miles of rough track) being the favourite with the operators.

On an exercise recce our intrepid aviator **Sergeant Geoff Shergold** (passenger) took off in a Beaver from an unprepared strip through bushes—this was a wee bit hairy with a ripped elevator on the Beaver and a very surprised **Sergeant Shergold!**

Signalling new style—dinner plate over a headlamp

Our intrepid sailor (**Sergeant Sid Crumbie**) took a party of six on H.M.S. *Beachampton* for 10 days. Apart from finding his way round the rum ration problem he now seems remarkably well versed in the arts of mine sweeping. By pure coincidence as the mine sweeper entered the bay at Fujairah, with an unserviceable radio, a party of soldiers was spotted on shore. Our intrepid sailor flashed a lamp signal, 'Welcome aboard, drinks now being served.' The soldiers, who turned out to be a party led by **F. of S. Potter,** from 255 Signal Squadron, replied by signalling with a dinner plate over the Land Rover headlights. Much to their surprise a boat was lowered and came ashore, whether out of idle curiosity or good communicating we are not quite sure!

The Squadron had an excellent U.E.I. report, and Radio Troop, as it is half the Squadron strength, naturally claims all the credit.

We are now preparing for the Gulf major exercise which begins in two days' time and will be reported in detail in a later issue.

259 Signal Squadron (Radio Relay)
B.F.P.O. 53

THIS month we feature our Ayios Nikolaos detachment; we asked them to describe themselves, their unexpurgated reply is printed below:

The magnificent seven

The Ayios Nikolaos detachment of the Squadron is one of the radio relay system link terminals. Our role is to provide general communications around the island for the Ayios Nikolaos Garrison.

There are seven of us who maintain the station (and all it entails), our illustrious leader, **Sergeant Steve Harrison,** and the workers being **Corporals Dave Trehearn, Joe Lovell** and **Dave James, Lance-Corporals Graham Wrigley** and **Colin Nowell,** and our non-worker Signalpuss Thomas, our tame cat.

We have recently had an extension built on our humble shack, to house a 16-ton 'cold gale producer' which is replacing our five small air conditioners. With the two large air intakes on the roof, we now closely resemble a sea-going type radio relay station! This is just getting over its teething troubles, and now we can find some relief from the seemingly perpetual heat of the sun. Thank you M.P.B.W.

During our infrequent quiet spells, we can be found slaving over our hot soldering irons, constructing what the intellectuals may deem a console. We have another name for it. It is going to tell us, at a glance, what is happening on each of our circuits, plus a few other 'luxury type' facilities built in.

Wine and woof

Besides our own individual pursuits out of working hours, **Sergeant Steve Harrison** is busy forming us into an Ayios Nikolaos detachment wine and woof appreciation society. In which every so often, we go out and see how much we can wine and woof in one evening, and still appreciate it in the morning.

O.i/c RECORDS AVERT YOUR GAZE! THIS IS WHERE THEY ALL ARE
Foremen of Signals with 259 Squadron
Left to right: Staff-Sergeant L. Sant, Staff-Sergeant P. Charles, W.O.II J. Lee, Staff-Sergeant G. Brindle, W.O.I E. Short, Staff-Sergeant R. Edwards, W.O.I M. Kenyon, W.O.II D. Lanyon

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Our Corporal Lovell and our Signalpuss Thomas .

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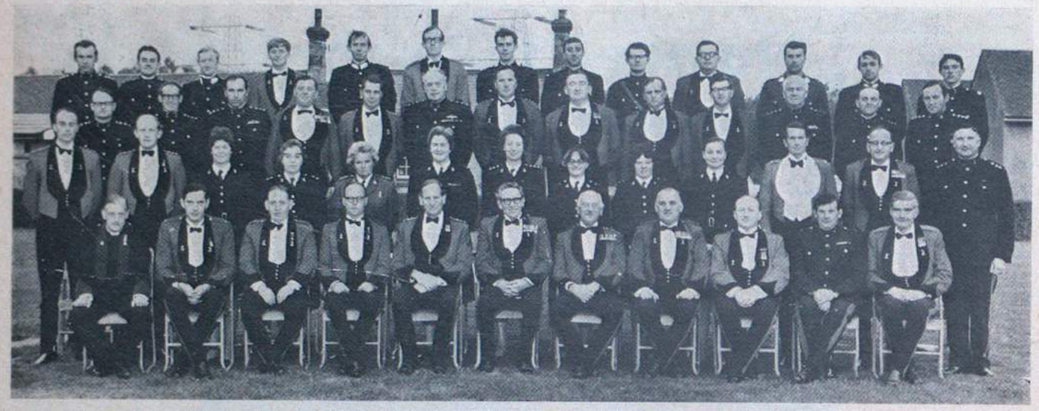

Brigadier A. J. Jackson and Brigadier C. C. Fairweather, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L. join Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E. and his officers for this group photograph of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) Officers Mess

34th (N) Signal Regiment (V)
Tyne/Teesside & West Riding
Middlesbrough

Post camp blues

THE period immediately after annual camp is always something of an anti-climax, particularly after such a successful camp, and this year it has been made even worse by the need for a stock check of everything the Regiment possesses for the imminent handover by the C.O., **Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Evans, M.B.E.,** to his successor, now Second-in-Command, **Major R. M. Stewart.** Our indefatigable Q.M., **Captain Keith Rothwell,** achieved his ambition of involving the entire Regiment in this mammoth operation, which he has now completed. With this out of the way, everyone can turn to the more enjoyable aspects of this time of the year—such as preparing for pre-administrative inspections.

Visit by G.O.C.

The Regiment was visited by **Major-General G. T. A. Armitage, C.B.E.,** the new G.O.C., Northumbrian District, who was seeing something of his new parish. He was shown round the Brambles Farm T. & A.V.R. Centre by the C.O. who, because he is also Station Commander of Teesside, conducted the G.O.C. around the other units in the area.

Eating his way out

The C.O. is now well into the last lap of his marathon of 'dinings-out.' The Brambles Farm Officers' Mess, the 'out Squadrons' and detachments, and the Regimental Sergeants' Mess have all had their farewell dinners, leaving only the Regimental Officers' Mess, who finally dine him out on 10th October at Scarborough. In replying to the farewell speeches and thanking for the presentations, it is difficult to see how he always finds something new to say. He presented the Sergeants' Mess with a Vignette etching of the more senior members of the Mess; this very personal gift will have a place of honour in their ante room. It is rumoured that **'Picasso' Evans** has a similar treat in store for the officers.

Captain M. M. Skillen and Staff-Sergeant Trevor, R.A.M.C., as seen through the eyes of the Volunteer Recruits

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36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (V)
Wanstead

Exercise Freedom and Celebrate Royal Signals 50th Anniversary

THE 36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) exercised its Freedom of the Borough of Redbridge on Sunday, 27th September. The Freedom was originally granted by the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford in April, 1963, to 45th (Essex) Signal Regiment, T.A., which subsequently became one of the Squadrons of 36th Regiment, on the reorganisation of the Reserve Army in April, 1967. When the Greater London Council was created, Wanstead and Woodford merged with Ilford to form Redbridge, and the Freedom was transferred to the new Borough in 1966.

This was the first time the Freedom of Redbridge had been exercised, and this year was chosen to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Corps of Signals. There was also great significance in the fact that **Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Prophet, T.D.,** T. & A.V.R., taking command of the Regiment on 12th October, from **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway,** as the first Volunteer C.O. of the unit, was the Parade Commander.

The vehicle party, of 30 vehicles and trailers, formed up at R.H.Q. in Wanstead with representatives from the four Squadrons of the Regiment, H.Q. Squadron, 44 (Cinque Ports) Signal Squadron, based in Gillingham; 45 (Essex) Signal Squadron, based in Brentwood, Colchester and Ilford; 54 (East Anglia) Signal Squadron, based in Cambridge, Norwich and Bedford, with the Regimental L.A.D., R.E.M.E. Scammel recovery vehicle as 'tail-end Charlie.' With D.R. outriders and the police covering all major junctions, the vehicle party paraded around the borough on a pre-arranged route.

In the centre of Ilford the vehicles were joined by the marching party (Regimental Corps of Drums, contingent of men, contingent of W.R.A.C.) and this party preceded the vehicles along the High Road, where the salute was taken on the Town Hall steps by his Worship the Mayor of Redbridge. Also amongst the guests at the Town Hall was the Mayor of Colchester, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** Commander of 12 Signal Group (V). **Colonel R. A. Chell, T.D.,** Deputy Group Commander; **Colonel Sir Derek Greenaway, Bt., T.D., D.L.,** the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, representatives of the T. & A.V.R. Associations, Borough Deputy Lieutenants and representatives of industry and youth organisations.

After the parade, guests were entertained in the Officers' Mess at the Ilford Drill Hall, and there was an 'Open Day' at the Centre, where a display of the Regiment's vehicles and equipment was set up, with a demonstration of the Regiment's role. There was also a .22 rifle competition for all visitors over 13 years old, a display by the Regimental Corps of Drums, and displays of Regimental silver and photographs of the unit's activities.

REDBRIDGE TOWN HALL, DAIS PARTY
Left to right: Brigadier Jolly, Colonel Sir Stuart Mallinson, Colonel Sir Derek Greenaway (Honorary-Colonel), Mayor of Redbridge, Mayor of Colchester, Lieutenant-Colonel Willway (Commanding Officer), Colonel Chell, Colonel Everingham, Brigadier Jackson and Colonel Dicker

36th REGIMENT OPEN DAY
The Mayor of Redbridge chatting with (*left to right*): Lieutenant Cassanet W.R.A.C., Sergeant Sisseam W.R.A.C., Lieutenant-Colonel Willway and (*extreme right*) Mayor of Colchester

36th (Eastern) Signal Regiment is over 600 men and women and is over 90 per cent recruited. It is felt that with the publicity created by the parade, the other 10 per cent should not be difficult to obtain.

Regimental cocktail party

On the previous evening, 26th September, the annual Regimental cocktail party was held at the Stationers' Hall in London. The occasion was marked with a presentation of a silver salver from the officers of the Regiment to **Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. Willway** and a bouquet of flowers to **Mrs. Willway,** with the good wishes of all present for their new posting to Reading. **Lieutenant-Colonel Willway** made a farewell presentation to the Regiment of a silver cigarette box, which was received by the Honorary Colonel, **Sir Derek Greenaway.** Principal guests included **Major-General W. N. R. Scotter** (Chief of Staff, Southco), **Mr. Patrick Jenkin,** M.P. for Wanstead and Woodford; **Mr. Ted Cooper,** M.P., for Ilford South; **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** Commander 12 Signal Group (V); **Brigadier H. B. Jolly,** Deputy Lieutenant of Redbridge; **Mr. J. W. S. Telford,** Deputy Mayor of Redbridge; **Colonel A. Noble,** Vice-President, T. & A.V.R. Council; **Colonel G. S. H. Dicker,** Chairman, East Anglia T. & A.V.R. Association, and **Colonel R. A. Chell,** Deputy Commander, 12 Signal Group (V).

38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
Sheffield

The Regiment does its own thing (by balloon, canoe or just flat feet)

MANY and varied have been the activities of 38th Signal Regiment (V) since annual camp in June.

46 Squadron, masterminded by **Lieutenant Wright** and **Second-Lieutenant Millar,** have been busy providing the communications both by line and radio for the Army Canoe Championships held in Nottingham, and in demonstrating a D11 link from Leicester to Ashby de la Zouch. Star performer on the latter occasion was **Sergeant Delany** with a bogged line-laying Land Rover.

64 Squadron congratulate **Major Revill** upon his appointment as Second-in-Command, although his keen sense of humour (particularly between 01.00 and 04.00 hours) will be

[Courtesy: Blackburn Times

INTREPID BALLOONISTS

93 Squadron contribute to Blackburn show by a running commentary given by Signalman Ronald Wilson (left) from a balloon during flight

THE CORPS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

39th Regiment's recruiting display outside the Royal Exchange did good business

sadly missed. The first exercise under the new O.C., **Major Bradley,** went very well. It's title 'Honours Even' appears to have been very apt.

87 Squadron are very sorry to lose their Admin. Officer, **Captain Jones,** to the School's Liaison Team, but wish him well and hope for many new recruits!

93 Squadron had a very successful appearance at Blackburn Show where the presence in the Squadron of W.R.A.C. caused many interesting questions and an adventurous volunteer, **Signalman Ronald Wilson,** who 'flew' by balloon. His flight and radio commentary were widely admired and reported. A Corps first, surely, in the field of ground to balloon communications? Two experienced 'recruits' were welcomed in August, ex-Regulars—**W.O.I R. R. Hudson** and **Sergeant Lewer.**

H.Q. Squadron, under their new O.C., **Major (Q.M.) Ken Pilley,** welcome **W.O.I R. Peake** as M.T.O., having said farewell to **Sergeant Jack.**

New faces have also appeared at R.H.Q., **Major (Q.M.) Worsley** coming from Singapore, as **Captain (Q.M.) Stephens** departs for Hong Kong. **R.Q.M.S. Hammill,** from Cyprus, to replace **R.Q.M.S. Izod** who retires to a life of leisure. We hope all these people will be happy in their new habitat.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Signals, a grand ball was held in September at the Palace Hotel, Buxton. The Lord and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Mayor and Mayoress of Derby, G.O.C. Yorkshire District, **Major-General The Earl Cathcart, Colonel Grimwood-Taylor** and others all graced the event with their presence. Dancing until 3 a.m. to the Royal Signals Dance Band, swimming before breakfast, a most memorable event.

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

Progress

SINCE the last notes the Regiment has settled down to its winter training programme and attendances have been maintained at a high level; the Drill Hall is packed on a

NOW TRY AND GET AWAY

Sergeant Lincoln and Corporal Ambler getting to grips with two potential recruits

Tuesday evening and we are fast running out of operator training places. Fortunately the last few recruits have wanted to be drivers and cooks so the problem has been self-solving. We are within sight of having to divide the trainees into two shifts with one evening each, as opposed to the present system of Tuesday 'classes,' Thursday 'skills."

They continue to pour in

Recruiting has been going well; there is a constant stream of two or three recruits each week, subsidised by our 'recruiting attacks' on the city which take place every six months or so.

The latest of these, for the week of 21st September, produced 165 applicants of whom we expect to attest 20%.

The interest aroused by the display at the Royal Exchange was most gratifying and we are grateful to 30th Signal Regiment for lending us the tent and photo-boards, without which we would have been stuck.

A significant social event

On the evening of 22nd September we were honoured by a private visit of the Chief of Defence Staff, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, **Sir Charles Elworthy, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.,** accompanied by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major-General P. F. Pentreath, M.B.E.,** and the Honorary Colonel, **Colonel T. B. Langton, M.C.**

There was a full turn-out for the visit and the C.D.S. saw parachute ground training in preparation for the 'jumps' which take place most weekends, the latest recruits being hammered into shape, and the progressive morse and commcen training.

Our guests visited the Lynx Club, where they met such stalwarts as **Corporal Rae Kettle** and **Corporal Colin Brown** amongst many others of the throng. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess also produced a reception committee headed by **R.S.M. Dave Wood,** who at 4 p.m. that afternoon had been in Stoke-on-Trent taking over the Michelin tyre company.

A buffet supper in the Officers' Mess rounded off what for us was a most pleasant and memorable occasion.

Abroad again

In just a few weeks, before these notes go into print, we will have completed Exercise 'Harvest Festival.' Soon detachments depart for Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar and B.A.O.R., the Parachute Squadron, aided and abetted by the special boat section, Royal Marines, 'drop, like the gentle rain from heaven,' all over central Denmark.

To achieve this 'drop' we travel by RAF and sea ferry to Denmark, get picked up and 'dropped' by 7th Air Commando, U.S.A.F., and return to U.K. by some means or other; as things stand at the moment it will probably be five-penny post.

We hope to have some photographs of these exercises and we have arranged B.B.C. London coverage of the drop.

To all those ex-Corps men and girls who sit around in the evening watching 'tele' in London, Tunbridge Wells and Dundee (where we have Squadrons), 79, Worship Street, E.C.2, is the address to contact. It's all happening here, why not join in?

A brief history of . . .

H.Q. (265 London & Kent) Signal Squadron (V)

THIS Squadron was formed in January, 1969, from the London and Kent Regiment, R.A., on the disbandment of T. & A.V.R. III. It is the H.Q. Squadron of 71st Signal Regiment (V) with R.H.Q. at Bromley, Kent. A cadre retains the title.

The London and Kent Regiment has its earliest historical links with the Yellow Company of the London Train Bands and the Camberwell Association, formed in 1543 to protect the then Princess Elizabeth. With the Volunteers of the Napoleonic Wars, there are more tangible links in the form of property, such as the colours of the St. Paul's and Temple Bar Association and the drums of the Loyal Greenwich Water Fencibles (known as the Nelson Drums, as they were beaten at his funeral).

The true history of the Squadron began with the Volunteer movement of 1858/9, and among its predecessors are those who after 1908 were called 7th City of London Battalion, The London Regiment (The Shiny Seventh), 21st and 24th Battalions, The London Regiment (the 1st Surrey Rifles and The Queen's), 20th Battalion, The London Regiment, The 8th London Howitzer Brigade, R.F.A., and the 4th Battalion The London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers. Both the Surrey Rifles and the Shiny Seventh played conspicuous parts in the battle for High Wood, and in 1916 the 1st Surrey Rifles won two V.C.s.

Most of the Regiment's predecessors became Gunners via the Searchlight Battalions, R.E. Only the 8th London Howitzer Brigade, since their formation as Kent Artillery Volunteers in 1859 have been Gunners throughout. In 1926 as 65th Field Brigade, R.F.A., they were the first T.A. Regiment to be mechanised. As 65th Field Regiment, R.A., they fought at Dunkirk, in North Africa, and in Western Europe. On expansion of the T.A. in 1939, 65th Field formed a second Regiment, 118th Field, who landed in Singapore, 14 days before the capitulation.

In 1955, the Regiment consisted of six units which, in that year, were reduced to three. In 1961 they were reduced to one, 265 Light A.D. Regiment, which had originally been formed as a H.A.A. Regiment in 1947. In 1967 the Regiment became the London and Kent Regiment, T.A.

The Squadron, commanded by **Major C. Robinson,** trains on Tuesday evenings with M.T. Troop at Bromley; S.H.Q., Q Troop and T.M. Troop are at Bexleyheath.

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G.O.C.'S VISIT WAS A CHEERFUL ONE

The visit of Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Freeland (G.O.C. Northern Ireland) to the 40th Regiment at camp clearly got off to a good start

Left to right: Brigadier Jackson (Group Commander), Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Freeland, Lieutenant-Colonel Hall (Commanding Officer), Major Gillespie

In rear: R.S.M. Crampton, S.S.M. Lawson and, hiding himself, Major Campbell (Training Major)

40th Ulster Signal Regt. (V) Belfast

ANNUAL CAMP 1970

'Irish Peace-keepers in East Riding'

"A THREE-DAY 'war' sprang up in the East Riding this week, with Ulster soldiers rapidly deploying and blending into the surrounding countryside to restore peace." Thus spake the *Hull and Yorkshire Times* front page on Friday, 18th September. It wasn't quite accurate, we were practising our B.A.O.R. role, not internal security, but at least the people of the East Riding discovered why their country lanes were full of vehicles from Ulster's Signal Regiment.

A very successful camp

We set out to do three things at camp:

—Bring all our recruits to trained soldier standard.

—Classify or upgrade as tradesmen all those who were within reaching distance of a Trade Board.

—Mount a Regimental exercise based on our war role and, of course, look after all our visitors.

Recruits

We have already held three recruit pass-off parades this year, but even so there were 100 soldiers still in the recruit stage, five squads of them, making the square at Burniston Barracks ring with their studded ammunition boots (still standard issue for T. & A.V.R. in Northern Ireland). It looked and sounded like the busiest days of National Service, but by the end of their 14-day course they had classified on two weapons, provided 'enemy' on the exercise, passed a detailed written examination, passed the assault course, and provided a quarter guard for the G.O.C. Northern Ireland.

They passed out, after a skilled demonstration of drill, by marching past the Honorary Colonel, **Colonel J. McCann,** who congratulated them on the progress made.

Trade training

The Trade Training Wing finished camp having qualified 31 as Class III tradesmen, and upgraded 35 to Class II Standard. All joined their Squadrons for the high peak of camp—Exercise 'All Stir V.'

Exercise 'All Stir V'

R.H.Q. and the main Commcen were based on R.A.F. Carnaby, a disused airfield outside Bridlington. We worked C41, C11 and D11 links to eight other locations spread all over East Yorkshire.

Communications were good (averaging 92%) being barely disrupted by crash moves and night attacks from the recruits. At the height of the exercise, we were honoured with a visit from the G.O.C. Northern Ireland, **Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Freeland, K.C.B., D.S.O.,** who flew from Ulster for the day, especially to see the Regiment in action. He had a whirlwind tour, accompanied by **Brigadier A. J. Jackson,** our Group Commander, and the C.O., which included a recruit quarter guard (the R.S.M. nearly had kittens at the suggestion, but it was really good), a detailed look at the recruits under training and the Regiment under field conditions.

The lighter side

As one can imagine with 540 men and women, mostly 'Irishmen,' in Scarborough, it wasn't all work. We had a very successful all ranks' dance in the first week which gave the more enterprising invaders some time to consolidate gains. There were frequent Officers' and Sergeants' Mess parties and a lively mid-weekend when we were joined by our sponsored IIA colleagues from 81 Squadron. The highlight of this weekend was a drumhead service followed by an Officers v. S.N.C.Os. cricket match, with **R.S.M. Crampton** doing fearful damage to **Colonel Hall's** bowling—26 off the first over—and **'Farmer' (Lieutenant) Harry Squance** scything balls to all boundaries with a style based more on hurley than cricket.

One sadder moment was the farewell to O.C. 81 Squadron, **Major Peter Dixon,** after 18 years, and the S.S.M., **W.O.II Bob Gaff,** who has served for 10 years. 81 Squadron gave them a great send off; roll on the next reunion!

In addition to the G.O.C., the Honorary Colonel and **Brigadier Jackson,** we were honoured by a visit from **Colonel D. Shearer** and **Lieutenant-Colonel F. Nangle,** from Ulster, and **Colonel Robin Chell,** from London. We enjoyed having them all, and hope their memory of Irish hospitality stays bright.

So we said a reluctant farewell once more to **Major Bevan's** Burniston Barracks and to the bevy of beauty which abounds by the beaches. We needed that 18-hour journey back to recover from all our hard work, but there is to be no respite if we are to be ready for Europe next year—will Europe be ready for us?

Note to the Dress Committee

Green stretch slacks are ideal field wear for W.R.A.C. They keep the girls warm and everyone else awake.

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Sport

THE PIONEERS AND THE ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) XI

Back row: J. Taylor, Corporal Gipson (16th Signal Regiment), Staff-Sergeant Moon (2nd Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Luckett (13th Signal Regiment), George Pope (Derbyshire & England), Don Cutler, Lance-Corporal Drummond (21st Signal Regiment), Tony Pope (Derbyshire), Mike Hendrick (Worcestershire), Corporal Taylor (7th Signal Regiment), Alf Pope (Derbyshire), Lieutenant Coltman (2nd Signal Regiment), Rodney Cass (Worcestershire), Glenn Turner (Worcestershire and New Zealand)

Front row: Lance-Corporal Kirk (13th Signal Regiment), Sergeant Merrick (13th Signal Regiment), Sergeant Emmott (13th Signal Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Butler (21st Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Howells (13th Signal Regiment), Lance-Corporal Commons (HQ BAOR), J. Lewis (Hampshire), J. East (Hampshire) and J. Abraham

Cricket report from 13th Regiment

SEPTEMBER has passed quickly. Our activities have been varied, as usual, and it is pleasant to record that the sun shone for most of the time.

However, everyone said that it would probably rain on 14th September—and it did! This was the day on which Royal Signals (B.A.O.R.) XI was to play a touring cricket side called the Pioneers, skippered by **Lieutenant-Colonel N. A. Butler** of 21st Signal Regiment. The Pioneers included many notable players, as a glance at our photograph will show. Play did not begin until mid-afternoon, but at least the players found an enjoyable way of filling their time and exercising their right arms! When play did get under way, the faithful spectators were rewarded with a grand display of batting. **Glen Turner** (Worcestershire and New Zealand) scored a very rapid 72. The Pioneers declared at tea with their score at 103 for 4, despite excellent bowling from **Corporal Bert Taylor, Lance-Corporal Dave Luckett** and **Corporal Robin Gipson.**

The Signals XI batted after tea, and **Lieutenant Steve Coltman** (2nd Signal Regiment) did extremely well to score 26 before being caught on the boundary. The Signals were determined to go for the runs, and valiant efforts by **Corporal John Howells** (13th Signal Regiment) and **Lance-Corporal Percy Drummond** (21st Signal Regiment) pushed the score to 58 for 5 before stumps were drawn at 18.00 hours.

The Signals XI acquitted themselves well, and we hope that this is the rebirth of Corps (B.A.O.R.) cricket.

Royal Signals Yacht Club (B.A.O.R.)

After one abortive attempt to sail the annual dinghy match against R.E.' .E. a re-sail was arranged at the British Weser Yacht Club. These are not the best waters in which to sail an inter-Corps match but circumstances enforced this venue.

R.E.M.E. were 'at home' this year and presented a challenge cup for the winners of our annual encounter with them. The trophy was purchased by funds from A.A.S. Carlisle and is known as Hadrian's Cup.

In the first race we finished narrowly ahead by 1½ points. Having carefully taken note of the course followed by the 'local' in the first round we were better equipped with local knowledge to sail subsequent rounds. What was most encouraging was the performance of **Lance-Corporal Parrotte** who comfortably won the first race and came second in the next. He was sailing his first-ever Corps representative match.

The two races were separated by a splendid cold buffet or curry lunch and so we took to the water in the afternoon feeling replete. This, however, did not deter our performance and although a R.E.M.E. boat was first across the finishing line our boats finished in a block—2nd (**Lance-Corporal Parrotte**), 3rd (**Staff Sergeant Kitchen**), 4th (**Major Hartnett**) and 5th (**Captain Collins**).

The result, of course, gave Royal Signals a comfortable victory and so we are the first holders of the Hadrian's Cup. The latter was presented to **Staff Sergeant Kitchen** by **Lieutenant-Colonel Atkinson,** Chairman of R.E.M.E. Sailing, amid the usual sailors' post mortem in the club bar.

Sailing in Cyprus

The August-September issue of THE WIRE gave an account of the Corps offshore sailing activities in the U.K., with *Skywave* and *Quicksilver* both enjoying a successful season. Previous issues have given publicity to the Corps yacht in the Far East — *Brigand* of Changi, whilst *Petasus* still provides enjoyment to our enthusiasts in B.A.O.R.

To complete the scene, we have some news about Cyprus. Plans have been going ahead to transfer *Brigand* there on the run-down of forces East of Suez. It is possible that she will be shipped via Gibraltar to Malta and sailed from there to Cyprus by some of our lusty sailors stationed in the area.

Meanwhile, to satisfy the present lack of a yacht for members of the Corps on those sun-drenched shores, NEARELF acquired earlier in the year a second-hand 3½-ton sloop named *Mhairi.* (*A picture and description appeared in the October/November 'Wire'*).

Royal Signals Hockey

Corps trials, 24th September

The season opened with the Corps trials held at the Central Ground, Catterick, on Friday, 25th September. In spite of the number of players unable to attend a very reasonable standard of hockey was achieved and several new names added to the list of possible players.

(Secretary's note: Next year's trials are due to be played on Friday, 24th September).

Signals v. Thistles Won 1-0

The season opened in grand style with an extremely good, open game against the Thistles which the Corps won 1-0. (According to the Secretary's records (1954 onwards) this is the first time the Corps has won this match).

The most impressive feature of the game was the way the players combined to play fast constructive hockey based upon possession of the ball. Particular mention should be made of Sergeant Allen Coldwell and Captain Geoff Allen in defence, Corporal Peter Havlin and Captain Jim McLuckie in attack, and Second-Lieutenants Willy Brewin (goal scorer) and John Cook who played extremely well in their first representative match.

Team: Sergeant Morgan; Second-Lieutenant Cook and Sergeant Coldwell; Lieutenant Barry, Captain Allen and Major Gregory; Corporal Boardman, Second-Lieutenant Brewin, Lieutenant Chubb, Captain McLuckie and Corporal Havlin.

8th Signal Regiment v. Thistles Lost 0-1

A last-minute cancellation by the Infantry left the Thistles without a game for Monday, 28th September, the last day of their tour. Much to their delight C.O. 8th Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Akass) offered to raise a Regimental side to play them.

Having been fortunate enough to persuade Sergeant Allen Coldwell to remain behind, the side was: Sergeant 'Taffy' Morgan, Sergeant Allen Coldwell, Captain Don Reed, Sergeant 'Andy' Neilson, Corporal John Boardman, Sergeant 'Paddy' Hyde, Corporal Peter Havlin, Sergeant 'Dicky' Forster, Staff Sergeant Peter Gilmon.

The match was a good, fast, open game with exchanges evenly matched, the only goal coming early in the first half from a good shot by the Thistles outside-left. After this both defences tightened-up their play, and in spite of the Regiment creating several chances, prevented further scoring.

Based upon the strength of the opposition this was an extremely good result and a great boost for 8th Regiment's hockey prospects this season.

Signals v. Dorset 'A' Lost 1-2

To assess the potential of players not available for the trial the following side was selected: Sergeant Green; Second-Lieutenant Cook and Sergeant Caldwell; Lieutenant Barry, Second-Lieutenant Brewin and Major Gregory; Second-Lieutenant Burnage, Major Moss, Captain McLuckie, Second-Lieutenant Hutt and Corporal Havlin.

Once again the players settled down well and soon had the Dorset side under pressure which was maintained throughout the first half. During this period an infringement outside the Dorset 'D' enabled the Corps to create a scoring chance which was taken by Hutt.

After the interval Dorset tightened-up their game and managed to break the Corps grip of mid-field play, open the game up and score two good opportunist goals to take the match.

Late results

Corps 2, R.A.C. 0; Corps 6, R.A.P.C. 0; Corps 1, R.A.M.C./R.A.O.C. 0; Corps 1, R.A.M.S. 0.

Corps Canoeists play major part in Army victory

A strong Corps contingent was selected to represent the Army at the Inter-Services' Canoe Championships held at Grantully, Scotland, on 25th and 27th September.

The following results show the prominent part the Corps representatives took in contributing to an overall Army victory.

Sprint Championships

K1 (Class 1) 1,000 metres: 1st, Royal Navy; 2nd, Royal Navy; 3rd, Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow (School of Signals); 4th, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink (School of Signals).

K2 (Class 2) 1,000 metres: 1st, Royal Navy; 2nd, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink/Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow (School of Signals); 3rd, Army (Para); 4th, Lance-Corporal R. Story/Corporal M. Bull (School of Signals/30th Signal Regiment); 5th, Army (Para).

Results: Winners, Army, 38 points; runners-up, Royal Navy, 25 points; third, R.A.F.

Long Distance Championships (15 miles)

K1 (Class 1): 1st, Lance-Corporal D. D. Wink (School of Signals); 2nd, Royal Navy; 3rd, Lance-Corporal R. M. Pawlow (School of Signals); 4th, Army (Para).

K2 (Class 2): 1st, Royal Navy; 2nd, Lance-Corporal R. Story/Corporal M. Bull (School of Signals/30th Signal Regiment); 3rd, Army (Para); 4th, Royal Navy; 5th, Army (R.E.); 6th, Corporal V. Bingham/Lance-Corporal S. H. Hebden (both of 2 Divisional H.Q. and Signal Regiment).

Results: Winners, Army, 170 points; runners-up, Royal Navy, 169 points; third, R.A.F.

Slalom Championships

K1 Team Event (teams of three): 5th overall (2nd Army), Sergeant J. Cornforth, 24th Signal Regiment, Sergeant M. A. Brett, School of Signals, Lance-Corporal A. Robinson, 30th Signal Regiment.

K1 Individual (36 entries): 8th (4th in Army), Lance-Corporal A. Robinson, 30th Signal Regiment; 9th (5th in Army), Sergeant M. A. Brett, School of Signals; 13th (7th in Army), Sergeant J. Cornforth, 24th Signal Regiment.

C1 (Canadian single canoes): 7th, Sergeant M. A. Brett, School of Signals.

Results: Winners, Royal Navy; runners-up, Army; third, R.A.F.

☆ ☆ Corps Golf ☆ ☆

The captain of Corps golf reports:

The Corps team completed its best season for some years with two good wins in October. The first was against the Ironsides at Hankley Common G.C. on 7th October, when the result was 9-3 in our favour. Then on 13th October we defeated R.A.M.C. by 10-2 at Swinley Forest G.C.

The overall results for the season are: Played 11, won 8, lost 3.

The Corps Autumn Meeting was held at Woking G.C. on 29th September with well over 30 golfers competing. It was particularly pleasing to see several players from the Catterick area.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Signals Golfing Society was held after the Autumn Meeting on 29th September. The trophies won at both the Spring and Autumn Meetings were presented by **Major-General Eric Cole.** The winners were:

Spring Meeting: Royal Signals Championship Challenge Cup, **Major R. B. Carroll;** Royal Signals Open Championship, **Major R. B. Carroll;** Royal Signals Handicap Challenge Cup, **Captain S. Cowan.**

Autumn Meeting: Individual Handicap Challenge Bowl, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson;** Veterans' Trophy, **Major R. T. Newbery;** Foursomes' Challenge Cup, **Colonel D. D. Fairman** and **Major J. D. Norfolk.**

The election of officers for 1970 was as follows: President, **Brigadier A. J. Jackson;** Captain of Golf, **Colonel A. T. Scott;** Secretary, **Colonel G. D. T. Harris.**

The Secretary wishes to inform all golfers that the team to represent the Corps at the Army Meeting next year will be decided in general on the results of our own Spring Meeting at Woking in early March, 1971. Details will be circulated in due course.

Swan Centre — Swan Song?

Badminton makes its debut as an officially sponsored Corps sport

Major R. S. Clayton, Corps Badminton Secretary, writes:

Good entries

Although this week may have seen the Swan Centre's Swan Song, a new Corps sport and a new Corps team have arisen from the dust of the first annual Royal Signals Badminton Tournament.

The tournament was held on 30th September and 1st October in the Swan Centre of 30th Signal Regiment. Competitions were held for men's singles, ladies' singles, unit doubles, open doubles, mixed doubles, ladies' doubles and veterans. A plate competition was also run for those competitors losing in their first game of singles.

The original plans for the tournament envisaged the use of the Swan Centre only but very rapidly the number of entries grew until the number of courts available had to be increased. In the Swan Centre there are two courts but we needed over 40 hours' badminton. We had to use 30th Signal Regiment and School of Signals gymnasia.

Major and Mrs. Oehlers hard to beat

Eventually 38 people entered the men's singles competition and Wednesday, 30th September, saw 134 matches bring all the competitions to the semi-final stages. Even at this stage the name **Oehlers** was apparent—it was in six of the eight competitions. **Major and Mrs. Oehlers** were set to attempt a clean sweep (except in the veterans!).

Play on Wednesday finished at 23.30. By this stage two competitors had made a name for themselves, **Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot** and **Lieutenant-Colonel Patterson,** better known during the tournament as the 'terrible twins.' Obvious gamesmanship was exhibited by these competitors in that they addressed each other consistently as 'Colonel.'

On a more serious note, several performances were rather encouraging. **Corporal Brown,** of 11th Signal Regiment, and **Apprentice Tradesman Sinclair,** from Harrogate, **Sergeant Salt,** of 610 Troop, and **Major Oehlers,** School of Signals, were the semi-finalists. Each had played four singles matches in the day —quite a feat in itself.

The fight for final placings

Thursday, 1st October, saw a more relaxed morning's badminton from the organisation point of view. Tension in the players, however, grew as the fight for places in the finals took place.

Captain Price and **Y. of S. McLoughlin** were to play **Majors Oehlers** and **Moores** in the final of the Unit doubles. A repeat performance was then to take place for the open doubles. There had been little cross-pairing because of the lack of experience within the Corps. **Major Oehlers** to play a young Apprentice Tradesman in the men's singles, and **Mrs. Oehlers** to play **Corporal Swailes** (W.R.A.C.) for the ladies' singles title.

Corporal Swailes partnered by **Private Farnworth** to play **Mrs. Oehlers** and **Mrs. Smith** in the ladies' doubles. **Major and Mrs. Oehlers** to play **W.O.I Holland** and **Captain Smith** (W.R.A.C.) for the mixed titles.

In the veterans **Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot** and **Major Moores** were to meet in combat and the plate would bring together **Lieutenant E. Heasman** and **Signalman Glendinning.**

The finals began at 14.00 and each half-hour saw a new champion and a disappointed runner-up. A full list of all title holders and runners-up are given below.

Badminton was not all—the girls were worth watching and glasses clinked at the bar.

At 17.00 the play was over and **Lieutenant-Colonel Newman** presented the cup on behalf of the President of Corps Badminton, **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley,** who could not attend the tournament.

The Unit Cup was won by the School of Signals.

In fact the School of Signals Badminton Club took all the titles at the competition, speaking very highly of the standard in the club and the facilities available in Blandford.

Results

Men's singles: Major Oehlers beat A/T. Sinclair.

Ladies' singles: Mrs. Oehlers beat Corporal Swailes.

Open doubles: Major Oehlers and Major Moores beat Captain Price and Y. of S. McLoughlin.

Mixed doubles: Major Oehlers and Mrs. Oehlers beat W.O.I Holland and Captain Smith (W.R.A.C.).

Veterans: Major Moores beat Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot.

Ladies' doubles: Mrs. Oehlers and Mrs. Smith beat Corporal Swailes (W.R.A.C.) and Private Farnworth (W.R.A.C.).

Unit doubles: Schools of Signals (Major Oehlers and Major Moores) beat 244 Signal Squadron (Captain Price and Y. of S. McLoughlin).

Plate: Signalman Glendinning beat Lieutenant Heasman.

The tournament would have been impossible without the willing help of many people in Blandford and elsewhere, and we are grateful to them all and to the competitors who came and gave all to produce a highly competitive tournament played in a very sporting atmosphere.

However, the challenge is now there—can any Royal Signals Unit topple the School in 1971?—the more the merrier.

First Corps matches

The team was: **Captain Price** and **Y. of S. McLoughlin; Major Clayton** and **Signalman Glendinning; Major Oehlers** and **A/T. Sinclair;** and **Corporal Brown** as reserve. **Corporal Brown** did play in two matches.

The results were: Royal Signals 4, Sappers 5; Royal Signals 5, R.E.M.E. 4.

To come out of this first encounter with even honours augurs well for the future of Corps Badminton.

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Obituary

S.Q.M.S. H. F. Smith

234 Signal Squadron (Malta) write:

It is with regret that we have to record the death at Aldershot, on 23rd September, of Mr. H. F. Smith, ex 2315775 S.Q.M.S. Mr. Smith enlisted in the Corps in 1923 as a trumpeter. He was one of three brothers, all of whom have served in Royal Signals. He was with the B.E.F. in France and was evacuated from Dunkirk and had since served in Malta, Italy and Germany. He was discharged in 1952 as S.Q.M.S. and had since been engaged in communications work for the Nigerian Army.

Colonel T. S. Foster

'Tom' Foster entered the Corps from the 'Shop' in January, 1939. From 1940-43 he served in North Africa with H.Q. Signals up to and including Operation 'Husky' — the capture of Sicily. He then transferred to XXX Corps Signals and embarked for the U.K. On 7th June, 1944, he disembarked with that unit in France, having spent a week aboard ship at Ipswich as part of the 'Overlord' forces. He was Second-in-Command. He was mentioned in despatches in Sicily and in North West Europe.

After V.E. Day he spent three years as Chief Instructor of 150 O.C.T.U. In 1948 he was posted to Singapore but returned almost immediately for a Staff College Course, from which he emerged as a D.A.Q.M.G. in the War Office. In 1952 he went to Singapore on a three-year posting, returning to U.K. to join the J.S.S.C. After a period in both 6th Armoured and 4th Infantry Divisions in B.A.O.R., he was appointed to command 23rd Regiment from 1959-1961. Two years on the British Army Staff in U.S.A. followed. He became the U.K. member of the E.M.C.C.C. as a Colonel in 1963. He then served on the Defence Signal Staff until 1967 when he was appointed Inspector of Trade Training. He retired in 1969.

Tom was of a warm-hearted, genial disposition and both he and his wife, Doreen, made many friends wherever they went. Her death a year ago was a sad loss to him which he bore bravely.

Tom died suddenly on 23rd September at the early age of 51. The deep sympathy of the Corps is extended to their three children.

Colonel P. H. Keeling, M.C., T.D.

'Phil' Keeling was born in 1884 and was educated at Giggleswick. He enlisted in the London Electrical Engineers in 1908, and was commissioned in Southern Army Troops Signal Companies in 1914. From the Army Troops Companies the Signal Service Training Centre was formed in Bedfordshire in 1914.

In 1915 'Phil' Keeling took SX Cable Section to Gallipoli. He became O.C. Signals for the ANZAC Corps heavy artillery and won the M.C.; throughout his long life he looked back with tremendous pleasure to the two years he spent with the Australians. He visited their country three times and used to say he loved them all—male or female.

He commanded 7 Divisional Signal Company in France and Italy in 1917-18. He finished the war in command of the 1st Army Signal School.

In 1920 he joined 48th Divisional Signals, becoming C.O. in 1924. During this time he invented a carrier for wireless sets which was in general use until horse transport, with its bumps, faded out. He was a fine horseman, a member of the North Warwickshire Hunt, and no T.A. unit had a better standard of horsemastership than did 48th Divisional Signals during his tenure of office. He was promoted Colonel in 1929 and was Honorary Colonel from 1944-49. Competition was fierce in 48th Divisional Signals. During World War II this unit fathered one Brigadier, three Colonels and nine Lieutenant-Colonels.

In civilian life Phil was a manufacturer in Birmingham. In retirement he lived in the country and drove himself around in a pony trap. At the age of 80 he still fed and groomed his pony himself. He remained very young in his outlook and was good company. He died on 6th October at the age of 86.

Major J. Widgery

His many friends in the Corps will learn with deep regret of the death of Major Jim Widgery at the age of 68.

His service with the Corps and the T.A. stretches back over 30 years, entering boys' service with R.E. Signals in 1916, being trained at Fenny Stratford and Maresfield. From 1920 to 1926 he saw service in Egypt and then served in India for a further five years. In 1937 he became P.S.I. 50th Divisional Signals and on the outbreak of war he was R.S.M. He was with the B.E.F. in France and was in the Dunkirk evacuation. Later he served in the Western Desert and in 1942 he was commissioned. Retiring from the Regular Army he later served with the T.A.

To Major Widgery fell a singular experience when, on interception duty in November, 1918, he picked up the message announcing the signing of the Armistice.

Major 'Jim' possessed many sterling qualities which made him a very popular man and earned him wide respect.

He was an annual member of the Catterick Branch of the Association.

To his family sincere sympathy is expressed.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. B. Stuart

Robin Stuart, who died on 27th August, transferred to the Corps from the Lincolnshire Regiment having first become known to us during attachments in Jabalpur in 1928 and in Egypt Signals in 1929. After a 'Q' course he returned to India, serving in Karachi, Secunderabad and Peshawar.

In the early stages of the war he was in Egypt Command Signals and the 4th Indian Division, with whom he served in the Sudan. On return again to India he commanded 'B' Corps, 36 Indian Divisional Signals and 201 H.Q. Signals in S.E.A.C. He spent nearly two years in England from 1944-45 and then commanded Kohat District Signals.

He was a professional C.O. and after only a short time as A.A. & Q.M.G. in 1st Indian Armoured Division he commanded Northern Command Signals, Singapore District Signals and No. 1 War Office Signal Regiment. He retired in 1956 but kept his connection with the Corps, being employed for some years as an R.O. with the 14th Signal Regiment.

W.O.II P. A. Matthews, M.M.

It is with regret that we report the death of Patrick Augustin Matthews on 13th September.

'Paddy,' as he was known by those who had served with him, enlisted in the 2nd Manchester Regiment in 1910 and served in Ireland. At the outbreak of the 1918 war he went with the B.E.F. to France and in 1915 he was awarded the M.M. Not long afterwards he transferred to the R.E.s and served with them to the end of the war.

In the 1920s he joined the 42nd (E.L.) Divisional Signals, T.A., and on the embodiment of the T.A. in 1939 he was posted to Catterick. He also served at Thirsk and Prestatyn.

W.O. Matthews will always be remembered for his enthusiasm for P.T. and sport generally. He was an understanding man and was always ready to give help and advice to others. Many are the recruits who owe a debt of gratitude, helping them by his example and an understanding of their problems, and helping them to become efficient soldiers.

'Paddy' left his medals to the Royal Signals Museum and it is hoped that in time they will be put on display at Blandford.

Great sympathy is expressed to his son and family in their sad loss.

Mr. D. Roberts

The news of the death of Mr. D. Roberts, of 20, Ring Road, Boughton, Chester, will be received by his wide circle of friends with much regret. Mr. Roberts was 50.

During the war he served with the Corps at Western Command Signal Company, later taking part in the Algerian and Italian campaigns with 1st Army Signals. Afterwards he maintained his keen interest in the Corps with the local T.A. Signal Unit in which he held the rank of R.Q.M.S. until 1966, and he always displayed an enthusiastic interest in the work of the Association in Chester.

For many years he was on the staff of the Cheshire County Council, and in 1958 he was appointed Senior Administration Assistant in the special services section of the department—a post he held until his death.

Great sympathy is expressed to his widow and son.

Association News

Cardiff Branch

Hon. Secretary: M. H. Jones, 42, Cartwright Lane, Fairwater, Cardiff, CF5 3DB.

Death of Mr. John Fear

We record with deep regret the recent death of **Mr. John Fear,** an Associate Life Member of this Branch and an ardent worker for the Regiment and for us. **John** will be sadly missed by all who experienced his great interest in all our affairs and his many valuable contributions to Regimental and Branch functions.

Our thoughts are also with **Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bolton** at this time. **Gwen** suffered a serious illness whilst they were on holiday. We are happy to know that good progress is being made and we trust **Gwen's** recovery will be rapid and complete.

The Corps Jubilee Year—Our thanks for everything!

It would be remiss if we did not record a vote of thanks for the grand hospitality accorded members who took part in the Salisbury/Blandford and Catterick Reunions. Both events were most memorable and were thoroughly enjoyed. We would thank the committee and members of Bristol Branch for their kind co-operation with us for the Salisbury/Blandford trip.

Our Catterick trip was marred this year with transport problems. Forty miles from Cardiff the arm of the law stopped our coach because of rear lights failure. All efforts to repair the fault failed, as did our efforts to obtain a replacement coach.

Five hours later a chilled, jaded and gloomy party saw dawn break and we resumed our journey, our late arrival at Catterick being the cause of some concern by our hosts. The welcome we received from them very soon dispelled our gloom and our disappointing journey became an amusing topic.

We were fairly strong in our representation of Founder Members in the persons of **Frank (Jock) Matthews, Vic (Golly) Oliver** and **Glen Stevens.** Also present was our Honorary Life Member **Ted Whitfield.**

Our departure, as usual, was delayed by our annual search for **George Brown.** Panic reigned until he was unearthed and prised from his pint. Our coach lighting fault had not been rectified and we had arranged to meet a relief coach in Birmingham. We made it—just!

We are now busily occupied with plans for a concert, to be staged on 8th October, 1971, when we will be doubly honoured with the presence of the Corps Band and the Treorchy Male Choir. Our first venture in this field was so successful that requests for a repeat flooded in. We learned much from that event and hope to put this knowledge to making this an even more successful occasion.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Holds Commemorative Service in Manchester Cathedral

To mark the Silver Jubilee of the Branch and the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Corps, the Manchester Branch held a commemorative service on 27th September in Manchester Cathedral. The occasion was attended by some 150 members and friends of the Branch and the Corps. The service, which was of a multi-denominational character, included in the congregation representatives of other ex-Service organisations and denominations.

The lessons were read by **Mr. Aubrey Erstling** (Chairman of Manchester Jewish ex-Servicemen's Association) and **Colonel R. Ollerenshaw, E.R.D., T.D., D.L.**

The Lord Bishop of Manchester, who himself had served in the Corps, welcomed the congregation and pronounced the final Blessing. The sermon was preached by the **Rev. R. J. Birchett, T.D., M.A.,** one-time Padre of 42nd Signal Regiment. The words of Remembrance in respect of the fallen were read by **Mr. Young,** Branch Chairman.

At the opening of the service four Standards (two guest

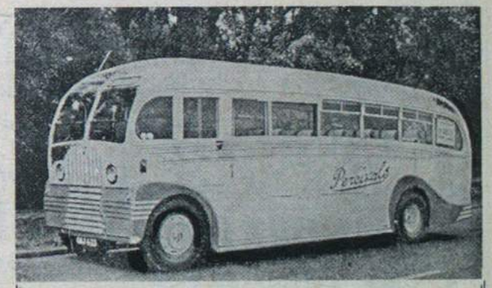
COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL
The preacher was the Rev. R. J. Birchett, T.D., M.A., late padre of the 42nd Division Signal Regiment T.A.

organisations and the Oldham and Manchester Branch Standards) were paraded to the altar and the Branch Standard was accorded the honour of being laid on the altar itself.

The beautiful singing of the Cathedral choir and the message conveyed by an inspiring sermon will remain in the memory of many for years to come as will the Last Post and Reveille sounded in Old Cavalry style during the Act of Remembrance.

The appreciation of all present must go to the Cathedral authorities in regard to all the arrangements they made for the service itself and to **Mr. Young** and his committee for all the other organisation necessary on an occasion such as this. The Branch would particularly like to thank those good friends who subscribed towards the expenses.

On the conclusion of the service a well-attended reception was held at the Newman Road T.A.V.R. Centre and a memorable day ended at about 7.30 p.m.



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3rd Holding Battalion and Mob. Centre Reunion Dinner

The 25th annual Reunion dinner and dance of the 3rd Holding Battalion and Mob. Centre, held at Kirkburton, on Saturday, 26th September, was a very memorable evening indeed. Over 120 guests and friends were present. The Chair was taken by **Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. Goddard,** supported by the Vice-President, **Colonel T. M. Niven, C.B., T.D., D.L.,** and the chief guests were the **Lord Bishop of Wakefield, M.B.E.,** and **Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, D.S.O.,** General Secretary of the Royal Signals Association. Among the messages received regretting inability to attend were those from **Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C.,** a Vice-President, and **Mr. Terry Thomas,** the stage and film star, who has been a member of the Club for some years. During the evening a Royal Signals plaque was presented to the **Bishop of Wakefield** as a small expression of thanks for his great interest in the Centre. The opportunity was also taken to present the Secretary, **Mr. W. V. Scales,** with a gold watch and an illuminated address to mark the Centre's appreciation of his devoted and valuable service as Honorary Secretary for 25 years, and **Mrs. Scales** was presented with a gold necklace as a small tribute for her devoted help and the unsparing service she had given her husband over the years in the Centre's service.

On the following day—Sunday—a service was held in the Kirkburton Parish Church. The lessons were read by **Michael Lyne,** whose father, the late **Major E. F. Lyne, O.B.E., M.M.,** was the original founder of the Club, and **Mr. Scales.** The sermon was given by **Canon John Barton,** a past Padre of the Club. Later, at the annual general meeting, **Mr. Scales,** after much discussion, was persuaded to carry on as Hon. Secretary for another year. **Mr. Scales'** address is: 100 Sixth Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Colonel A. W. Roberts, M.C.

His many friends will be pleased to know that '**Robby**' has been back from S. Africa holidaying in the U.K. for several months, and his usual cheerful self. He sends best wishes to all who knew him. His present address is: Ogmore, Albertyn Road, Muizenborg, Cape Province, and he hopes that anyone in the Corps who finds himself in Cape Town will get in touch. He is the only **Colonel Roberts** in the local telephone directory.

East London Branch

T.A. Centre, Gordon Fields, Ilford, Essex.

To all ex-Signalmen of Royal Signals and R.E. Signals in the East London, Essex and North Kent area.

Please note the new address of the above named branch and for all information on dates and times of monthly meetings please contact the Hon. Secretary, **Mr. Harry W. Doze.** 84, Clacton Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17 (home telephone 01-520 3783 after 1 p.m. daily).

Come along and support this Branch if you can and try and make it, once more, a lively go-ahead Branch.

Nepal Cup

Once again for the fifth time Gurkha Signals have won the Nepal Cup, competed for by all units in the Gurkha Brigade. Unfortunately pressure on space precludes publishing a full account and photograph. These will appear in the next issue of 'The Wire.'

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December-January 1970/1971

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

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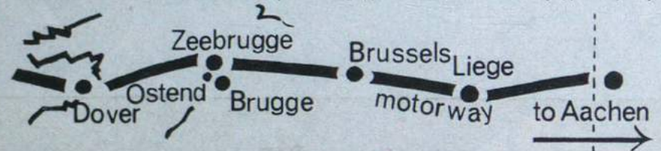

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THE WIRE

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

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DECEMBER/JANUARY 1970/71

Vol. 24 (*New Series*) **No. 12**

Christmas Message from Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Master of Signals, to all ranks of the Corps

"I AM sure General Sir William and Lady Scott would join me and my wife in expressing especially warm wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all past, present and future members of our Corps and their families.

Your enthusiasm and support has been of particular value to both Sir William and myself during the Jubilee Year. We are most grateful to all those who organised and took part in the many highly successful events.

We of Royal Signals now have fifty years of solid achievement behind us and can look forward to a great future, building upon the firm base that has been established.

God Bless you all. May you have a very happy Christmas and a most successful New Year in 1971."

☆ ☆ ☆ A Great Year ☆ ☆ ☆

AS this edition of THE WIRE is published, 1970, Golden Jubilee Year of the Corps, will be drawing to a close.

All will agree that it has been an outstanding year and one in which we can all take a legitimate pride.

Throughout the units of the Corps, both Regular and Volunteer, and in many branches of the Association, special functions have been held to mark the occasion. A number of ceremonies and gatherings have also been sponsored by the Corps itself, and many will remember over the years to come the inspiring and splendid reunions held at Blandford, Catterick, and more recently, at Perth in Scotland.

Most will agree that the moving and colourful Service of Rededication, held in Salisbury Cathedral, was the outstanding event of this very special year. The packed congregation, composed as it was, of a cross-section of the Corps, from young serving soldiers to founder members of the 1920's, the simple dignity of the Service, the splendid music of the Corps Band and Fanfare Trumpeters, and the soldierly bearing and pride of Corps of all, particularly founder members, as they marched past, will be a memory that must surely remain over the next 50 years.

Another event that made this an outstanding year was the very welcome visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne to the Corps at Blandford, and in THE WIRE we were privileged to publish what is probably one of the most charming and delightful photographs taken of her, talking as she was with smiling animation to two Corporals and their wives.

Nor must we forget the colourful and inspiring ceremonies which marked the conferment of the Freedom of the City of Birmingham on the 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V) — a great honour to our Volunteer Corps.

Another landmark in Corps history was the completion of the tour of duty of our first Master of Signals, Major-General Sir William Scott, who had held this appointment since 1961, and had served the Corps with much distinction since its earliest days in 1920. He was very appropriately succeeded by another distinguished Corps personality, Major-

(Continued on next page)

EDITORIAL—*(continued from previous page)*

General P. E. M. Bradley, whose father before him had made his mark as a senior officer in the Corps.

In the world of sport, training and enthusiasm brought their reward very fittingly in 1970. The success of the Corps in a wide range of events was most notable. Outstanding amongst these were the remarkable performance of Corps marksmen at Bisley and the 21st Regiment's fine win in the Army Team Athletics Championship.

Finally, mention must be made of that excellent publication 'Through to 1970,' which so vividly traces military signalling and Corps history from the very earliest days.

On this note we would wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and the best of good fortune in 1971. We thank them for their loyal support, which has been a source of much encouragement to us. Nor must we forget our printers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons Ltd., with whom we have had a very happy relationship for over 30 years.

Our Cover Picture

We hope our readers will detect a slight flavour of Christmas in our front cover picture of the Choir of Army Apprentices' College Harrogate.

SINGING in the Choir of St. Alban's Garrison Church, Army Apprentices' College, is a voluntary hobby open to Apprentice Tradesmen, and includes 35 of them, together with some permanent staff and their families.

The Choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and a high standard of music is maintained. New recruits generally have little experience of choral singing, but they soon find themselves tackling quite complicated anthems, which is a tribute to the skill and patience of the joint choirmasters, **Captain R. E. Buckee,** R.A.E.C., and **Mr. John Platford,** a civilian lecturer at the College. The Organist is **Eric Whitfield,** a nursing supervisor.

Besides singing at the Sunday Services, the choirmen practice twice a week and are occasionally invited to lead worship in parish churches around Harrogate. As a club, they enjoy a number of other social activities together, Indeed, one can judge by their unangelic expressions that they are all healthy extroverts, and take part in other hobbies as diverse as gliding, sailing and the college rugby team.

Despite the usual problems with broken voices (everyone has a periodic voice test) there is always a waiting list for choir membership.

From our "In" Tray

Best wishes from an old timer

Sir,

Many congratulations to the Corps on attaining its Golden Jubilee! Did you have any special celebration to mark the occasion?

It is also my 'Golden Jubilee,' insofar as it is 50 years since I joined the Corps. I was very proud to have been in **Sergeant Joe Shenton's** special No. 8 Squad. What a fine man he was and an inspiration to all youngsters who came under his influence.

After enduring six weeks of **Tommy Hewitt,** in the riding school, and a Lineman's Course in 'D' Company, Maresfield, I was posted to Crowborough and embarked for India in 1921. There I was posted to 'F' Divisional Signal Company at Jubblepore and later at Kohat. I played centre-half for the Combined Signals football team, both at 'Jub' and 'Pindi.'

Brigadier F. J. Allen (I believe he is President of Indian Signals Branch of the Association), was my Company Commander at Kohat, and I feel sure that he will remember me as **Sergeant Wallace** (this was Indian Unattached List rank —I was Lance-Corporal on the Corps Roster). Ex-**R.S.M. Costello** was also a Sergeant with me at Kohat. We used to correspond at one time. Please ask him to get in touch if he is still around.

There were quite a number of Londoners in 'F' Division, and although we are all getting a little old in the tooth, it is quite likely that some of them are still around and are members of the Indian Signals Branch. I would be very happy to hear from anyone who can remember me. My memory is good and group photographs and snaps are always a reminder of happy days.

I became a Life Member of the Association in February, 1923, and I regard this as an honour and privilege.

With best wishes to all old friends of the Corps and colleagues of the Association on this special occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Len Wallace,
(More familiarly known as Wally I).

7, Coleman Court, Moonah,
Nr. Hobart, Tasmania.

P.S.—**Ex-Major W. T. Wagg** (known as Wally II) was also with me in 'F,' at that time a Lance-Corporal. I still correspond with him. He is a Congregational Church minister in Philadelphia, U.S.A.

An evening long to be remembered

Sir,

Last Saturday evening I had the very good fortune to go to the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

To my great pleasure, as part of the Army programme in the Services display, we were treated to a very nostalgic 50 years of Royal Signals, thence to the Trumpeters and the Corps Band, under the direction of **Captain Boulding.** To see Royal Signals made my evening, quite apart from the brilliance of the Festival altogether. Earlier this year, at Newport Pagnell, I met **Captain Rowe** and the Motor Cycle Display Team, so Saturday evening has made the 50th Anniversary even more splendid to me.

Would you please be kind enough to convey to **Captain Boulding** and the members of Royal Signals who took part on Saturday evening my very sincere salaams—they were wonderful—it was all too nostalgic for words—and took me back to 1942, when I was a lad joining 3 STC and SOTB at Slaithewaite. I fear we are getting old now, but it really was fine to see Royal Signals. I was also very interested to see the new quarters of the Household Cavalry at Knightsbridge—somewhat different to ours at Slaithewait!

However, jolly good luck to the Army—for my part, nothing is too good for them, and I only hope that Royal Signals get equal living accommodation.

Yours sincerely,

Alec Morgan

41, Spring Lane, Olney, Bucks.

RETIREMENT

Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) F. Spearpoint, O.B.E., of Royal Signals Records

THERE must be very few members of the Corps who have not during their service met **Freddie Spearpoint,** who relinquished his appointment of R.O.III at Royal Signals Records on 30th September, having reached the age limit for retirement.

Lieutenant-Colonel (QM) F. Spearpoint, O.B.E.

Freddie enlisted in 1925 and was posted to the Training Battalion for training as a lineman. He was appointed Lance-Corporal in 1927 and in 1929 left 'A' Corps Signals, Aldershot, for India, where he remained until 1933. He then started a tour of duty as a drill instructor in the U.K. at the Depot Battalion and returned to India in 1938. He was commissioned Lieutenant (Q.M.) in 1942.

After commissioning, he returned to India to serve with the Signal Training Centre, Rawalpindi and 'Z' L. of C. Signals, returning to the U.K. in 1948 for service with the Territorial Army. In 1952 he was posted to Cyprus and served with 3 G.H.Q. Signals. Thereafter, he saw further service with the Territorial Army, this time with 54th (East Anglian) Division Signal Regiment. In 1957 he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel (Q.M.) and in 1959 was awarded a well-earned O.B.E.

On retirement from the Active List, in 1961, he joined Royal Signals Records, and during the last nine years has, with great distinction, looked after the destinies and interests of the Warrant Officers and Staff Sergeants on the Regimental Duty, Yeoman of Signals and Supervisor Radio rolls.

In all, Freddie has served over 45 years, and we wish him and **Mrs. Spearpoint** a long and happy second retirement.

Lafone Day Memorial Service

The Middlesex Yeomanry (O.C.A.) (Duke of Cambridge Hussars) Military Band led the Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades' Association and the 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) in a march through the City of London to the Church of St. Martin-within-Ludgate on 25th October, for the traditional annual Remembrance Service in memory of **Major A. M. Lafone, V.C.,** which has also become recognised as a Memorial Service for members of the Middlesex Yeomanry.

This year the attendance surpassed that of previous years, many of those attending were accompanied by their families, and after the service, the congregation, again led by the Band, formed a procession to St. Paul's Cathedral, where a wreath was laid on the Regimental Memorial in the Crypt.

A second Engagement for Laurence and Rhonda

[Photo by kind permission Western Morning News Co. Ltd.

Standing, left to right: Captain E. G. H. Tucker O.C. 866 Signal Troop (V), Private Glenda Clark W.R.A.C., W.O.II T. W. L. Clark B.E.M. (R.H.A.)

Sitting, left to right: Mr. Laurence John White, Miss Rhonda Lesley Clark

One could be forgiven for thinking that the ceremony taking place in the picture was a wedding at a Registrar's office. The uniforms are, of course, a giveaway, but there is romance in the air nevertheless.

The fact is that **Miss Rhonda Lesley Clark** and her fiancé, **Mr. Laurence John White,** are entering into a further engagement together, this time to serve as Volunteers with 866 Sub Regional Signal Troop, 37th Signal Regiment (V).

Rhonda's father, **W.O.II T. W. L. Clark, B.E.M.** (R.H.A.), of the Plymouth Army Information Office, is there to point with an experienced hand to the 'sign here' space at the foot of an AF E 7545. But this is no 'shotgun engagement' for, in volunteering, Rhonda is following the advice of her younger sister, **Glenda,** who joined the Troop in February.

So **Glenda, W.O.II Clark** and **Captain E. G. H. Tucker,** the O.C. of the Troop, watch a family tradition take a further step and wish the young couple a happy engagement—in fact, two happy engagements.

An interesting job awaits you with 207 Kensington Signal Squadron (Cadets)

207 (Kensington) Signal Squadron, 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6., are looking for an adult instructor—an ex-Corps man, or someone who is leaving the Corps as his time has run out. This is a very interesting and worthwhile job. "The man we are looking for," says the O.C., **Lieutenant J. V. H. Sharman-Courtney,** T.A.V.R., "will hold the same rank as he held in the Regular forces, and if he is a Sergeant he will hold the rank with pay allowances for weekend duty and summer camp. The Squadron has 26 in number, all of whom are interested in the work of Royal Signals, and he will have a grand mess life with 31st (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V), who help us in every way."

The Squadron has its own radio sets—all 19 sets, and, of course, the usual 88's. So anyone who fits the bill and wishes to carry on, and at the same time become a civilian, here's the right job for you.

Please contact **Lieutenant Sharman-Courtney,** at 207 (Kensington Signal Squadron (Cadets) at 190, Hammersmith Road, London, W.6.

Parade nights, Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 7.45 to 10 p.m.

MRS. S. LANCASTER

Mrs. S. Lancaster, now living at 21 Taunton Way, Scartho, Grimsby, Lincs., the widow of **Corporal 'Burt' Lancaster,** of 21st Signal Regiment, and her children Robert and Susan, send through THE WIRE best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all her friends wherever they may be. She writes: "We do miss all our friends in the Corps so much and THE WIRE is the only way we can keep in touch with them." She adds that Robert is hoping to join the Corps as soon as he is old enough. **Mrs. Lancaster** would like to get in touch with **Mrs. Jean Brooke,** wife of **Corporal Brooke,** who was her daughter's godmother. So please, **Mrs. Brooke,** if this catches your eye get in touch with **Mrs. Lancaster** at the address given.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Number of cases assisted financially in October	37
Number of clothing parcels sent	48
Amount spent in grants and loans	£1,155 15 9

One of the Month's Cases

SIGNALMAN, served 1939 to 1946. He has been a sick man for the last 11 years as the result of a stroke. His wife looks after him, and their 16-year-old daughter, who has just started work, does the best she can to help her parents. In spite of all their efforts, rent arrears had mounted up, and the Association made them a grant of £50 to put them straight. The wife's letter is printed below.

One of the Month's Letters

WHEN we received your letter we had to read it twice, as it was like a miracle to us. We realise it was a very large sum, and my husband and I will always be indebted to the Royal Signals, which my husband was proud to serve in. We had only you to turn to, as no one else wanted to know us since my husband's illness started. I can't express our sincere gratitude enough to everyone concerned for the help. You have given my husband a new lease of life.

THE CORPS CARES FOR ITS OWN

Field of Remembrance

WESTMINSTER ABBEY, 5th NOVEMBER

The Field of Remembrance was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, at 12 noon on Thursday, 5th November.

A considerable gathering of retired and serving members of the Corps assembled for the opening of the Royal Corps of Signals' plot, at a ceremony conducted under the arrangements of **Mr. A. E. Stead,** prior to the official opening of the Field by the Queen Mother. Those in attendance at this ceremony were: **Brigadier W. G. Tucker, Brigadier P. M. P. Hobson, Brigadier H. R. Firth, Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. S. Gray** (Bournemouth Branch), **Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Garnons-Williams** (C.S.O., London District), **Major N. C. Cleveley, Major F. R. Fletcher** (36th Signal Regiment (V)), **Major L. S. J. Chalke** and **Captain J. R. E. Way** (Croydon Branch), **W.O.I (R.S.M.) B. S. Howie** (36th Signal Regiment (V)), **Messrs. D. Greenbrook** and **A. E. Stead** (Association H.Q.), **A. V. Ient** (Aldershot Branch, **D. E. Wrenn** (Torbay Branch), **L. Pollard** (Leeds Branch) **J. T. Dexter, H. Gillibrand** and **R. G. Wilkinson** (North London Branch), and **C. F. Maltby.**

Crosses were planted in the plot, for and on behalf of: H.Q., Royal Signals Association; Signal Officer-in-Chief and all ranks; 11th Signal Regiment (Depot); 52-85 Association (Glasgow and Belfast) and the following branches of the Association: Aldershot, Cardiff, Blackpool, Catterick and District, Coventry, Hartlepool, Hull, Leeds, North London and Sheffield.

After the official opening, the Queen Mother walked around the garden talking to representatives of the Services who were in attendance. During her tour she took time to speak to members present representing the Corps, and in particular congratulated **Mr. A. E. Stead** on what she described as the beautiful and colourful display of the Royal Corps of Signals plot. She also commented on the pleasure it was for her to see familiar faces each year and also a number of new faces. It is good to know that our fallen comrades are not forgotten and, indeed by our representation each year, never likely to be forgotten.

D.G.

"Schools Symposium" at the School of Signals

PUTTING IT ACROSS
Corporal J. R. Davy, a Terminal Equipment Technician, demonstrating Mufax equipment using a map trace

ELEVEN headmasters and careers masters from schools in the South West of England, with nine careers officers from the Ministry of Employment and Productivity attended the second 'Schools Symposium' on 8th October. Five of the visitors stayed overnight in H.Q. Officers' Mess, where they were met on arrival and entertained by the Symposium staff, including **Brigadier J. R. Cubberley, Lieutenant-Colonels M. S. Jarrett, N. G. Gallyer, J. L. Akass, B. A. Beattie, D. A. Barry** and **H. G. S. Burkitt.** Next morning, before the Symposium commenced, they saw No. 29 Foreman of Signals Course at work on projects.

The opening lecture on 'The Role of the Services in the 1970s,' was given by **Major-General J. K. I. Douglas-Withers, C.B.E., M.C.,** G.O.C., South West District. This was followed by presentations on 'The Role of Royal Signals' and 'A Career in Royal Signals,' in the second of which, **Sergeants D. R. Heyes** and **J. M. Smith,** on courses, and **W.O.II D. W. L. Crisp,** of 30th Signal Regiment, took part.

R.S.M. J. Rayner and W.O.s and Sergeants entertained the visitors to lunch in the Mess. Afterwards, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Inglis** introduced an exhibition of modern signal equipment provided by 14th Signal Regiment, 30th Signal Regiment and the School of Signals, as well as the Quicksilver Display. **Colonel F. M. S. Winter** and **Lieutenant-Colonel I. M. Rose** were also present. **Brigadier C. G. Buttenshaw, C.B.E., D.S.O.** (Retd.) acted as Conducting Officer. The day was concluded with a 'Qiz and Discussion Period' and tea in the Museum.

The aim of the Symposium was to inform the visitors about Royal Signals, and the opportunities for a career in the Corps. Those attending were most impressed, not only by the hospitality they received, but also by the trouble taken by the Corps to give a good and useful training and to plan their careers throughout their service.

Royal Signals Association & Benevolent Fund

The following donations were gratefully received during October, 1970:

Officer Commanding, 28th (B.R.) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG)	100	0	0
Commandant, School of Artillery	25	0	0
Chaplain's Branch, SHAPE	23	0	0
Officer Commanding, 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)	10	0	0
Officer Commanding, 83rd (London) Signal Squadron (V)	2	0	0
Mrs. E. H. Eversley	7	17	6
Brigadier R. G. Miller, C.B.E. (in memory of Colonel T. S. Foster)	5	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel R. V. Lester	2	2	0
L. H. Morse, Esq.	2	0	0
E. C. Partridge, Esq.	1	1	0
Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, M.B.E.	1	1	0
H. W. Vaughan-Thomas, Esq.	1	0	0
Sergeant E. G. Bird	16	0	
Various small donations	16	0	
	£181	13	6

CLOTHING

Since the beginning of August, gifts of clothing, toys, books, etc., have been gratefully received from the following:

Major-General M. D. Price, Mrs. E. Rowley, Major H. Marjoram, Staff Sergeant and Mrs. M. A. White, Mrs. R. M. Goddard, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. E. G. Day, Corporal and Mrs. J. Clarke, Major M. H. Priestley, Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. Welsford, Mrs. N. R. Wheatley, Major L. A. Harry, Major B. C. Complin, J. H. Sowden, Esq., Miss Eversley, Mrs. Newson, A. Stokes, Esq., Corporal and Mrs. K. Patterson, Mrs. A. Martin, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. P. F. W. Gahan, Mrs. S. S. Spiers, Colonel G. J. C. Moss, Mrs. M. Poile, Captain R. E. Barber, Mrs. M. S. Wheatley, Brigadier C. E. Page, Major and Mrs. D. J. D. McKail, A. E. Stead, Esq., Mrs. Vandyck, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stockdale, Major-General R. J. Moberly, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Strawn, Lieutenant and Mrs. V. F. M. Thom, Mrs. D. E. Blease, Mrs. B. M. Woods, Thrift Shop, Blandford Camp, Mrs. D. Lycett-Gregson and the ladies of Hildesheim Garrison, Miss S. R. Douthwaite, Sergeant J. A. Lund, Major G. W. Young, Major and Mrs. J. Donne, Mrs. W. R. Smijth-Windham, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. L. Gordon and Major K. Kirkby.

Royal Signals Yacht Club Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will be held at 10.30 hours on Tuesday, 12th January, 1971, in Conference Room 254 (second floor) of the Old War Office Building. All members are invited to attend. Will those wishing to do so, please notify the Hon. Secreary, Signals 35b, Old War Office, Whitehall, S.W.1 (Tel. ext. no. 0172).

Members will also be interested to know that the International Boat Show at Earls Court is from 6th to 16th January, 1971.

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M.E.L. are also actively engaged in developing a wide range of military radio equipment for use in the '70s and '80s . . . one such equipment is the UK VRC-321 H.F. Combat Radio, being developed for future use by the British Army.

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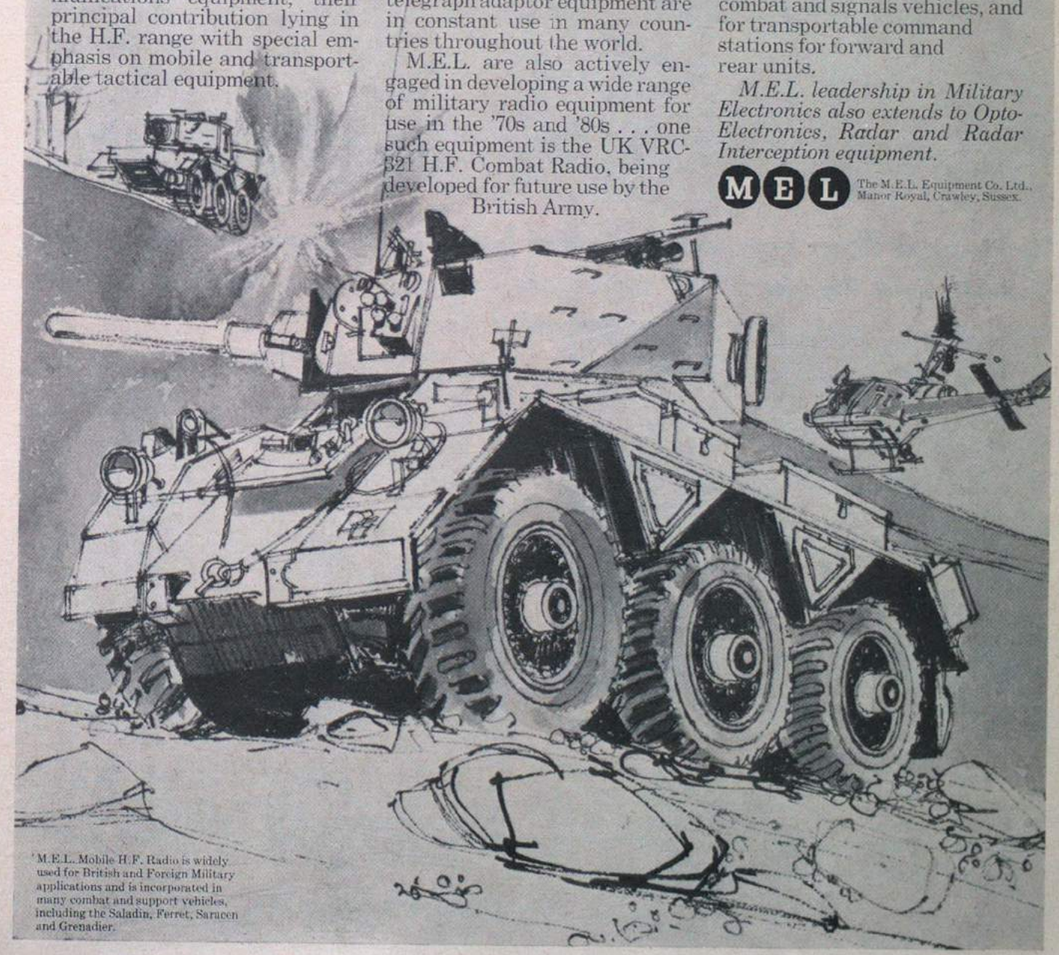

'M.E.L. Mobile H.F. Radio is widely used for British and Foreign Military applications and is incorporated in many combat and support vehicles, including the Saladin, Ferret, Saracen and Grenadier.

Royal Signals Scottish Golden Jubilee Reunion was a great success

300 gather at Perth to renew old friendships and to remember past friends

The Master of Signals poses with the Honorary Colonel and the Commanding Officer of 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) and Officers who Commanded Scottish Units from which the present Regiment is descended

Back row, left to right: Colonel H. E. Lang (52nd (L) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1959-63), Colonel R. Linton (52nd (L) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1945-46, 1956-59), Colonel J. Cochran (51st (H) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1943-45), Colonel E. Birnie Reid (51st (H) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1934-39)

Second row, left to right: Colonel W. A. Dalziel (82nd Regt. A.E.R. 1961-65), Lieutenant-Colonel G. Loudon (51st (H) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1966-67) Colonel G. D. G. MacKinnon (51st (H) Div. Sig. Regt. T.A. 1956-60), Colonel T. P. E. Murray (51st (H) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1939-40, 1947-53), Colonel T. M. Niven (52nd (L) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1938-39), Brigadier H. N. Crawford (60th H.Q. Sig. Regt. T.A. 1949), Lieutenant-Colonel H. Scarborough (13th A.A. (M) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1948-52), Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull (Present C.O. 32nd (Scottish) Sig. Regt. (V))

Front row, left to right: Colonel T. B. J. McMain (51st (H) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1960-64), Colonel T. D. Childs (61st (City of Edinburgh) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1958-60), Major-General P. E. M. Bradley (Master of Signals), Major-General A. M. W. Whistler (Hon. Col. 32nd (Scottish) Sig. Regt. (V) Brigadier Sir J. S. Muirhead (Highland Div. Sig. Coy. R.E. T.F. 1917-19 52nd (L) Div. Sigs. T.A. 1922-29), Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Gill (61st (City of Edinburgh) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1966-67), Colonel I. M. Wotherspoon (51st (H) Sig. Regt. T.A. 1964-66) and Colonel W. H. Oliver (82nd Regt. A.E.R. 1956-61)

Under the direction of Brigadier W. P. W. Robertson, O.B.E. and organised by Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Cattermull and staff of the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) a most successful gathering of Royal Signals (Scotland), past and present, was held in Perth on 24th and 25th October to mark the Corps' Gold Jubi'ee year.

Our Scottish correspondent writes:

At Perth, beneath the bold ramparts of the Grampians and hard by the ancient Palace of Scone, the Royal Engineer Signals and Royal Signals veterans of two world wars and half-a-hundred almost forgotten campaigns, gathered to exchange greetings, memories of the past and to remember absent friends.

This being a reunion of Scottish Signals, it was epitomised through 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V), the linear descendent of such proud units as the 1st Lanarkshire R.E. Volunteers, 1st Aberdeenshire R.E. Volunteers, 51st Highland Divisional Signals, 52nd Lowland Divisional Signals, 15th Scottish Divisional Signals, 61st City of Edinburgh Signal Regiment, and many others of no little repute.

Honoured by the presence of the Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley,** and a host of former Honorary Colonels and Commanding Officers, covering the period 1917-1967, the reunion, presided over by **Brigadier H. N. Crawford,** had the relaxed convivial air of a family gathering, as indeed it was.

Three old timers prominent at Perth

Left to right: Sapper T. D. Moir (R.E. Signals 1914-19), Driver T. Watt (R.E. Signals 1914-19) and Driver J. Marriott (R.E. Signals 1914-18). Driver Joe Marriott, who was a guest of honour, is famous for cycling to reunions from his home at Chesterfield having visited both Salisbury and Catterick by this method earlier in the year. It was noted that his bicycle was with him at Perth too!

The Old Comrades and serving members, male and female, of both Regular and Volunteer Forces from the Highlands and Lowlands, met at the Salutation Hotel, where the Warrant Officers and Sergeants and their ladies, under the direction of **R.S.M. J. Campbell,** had a most enjoyable dinner. The guest of honour was that inveterate reunioner, **ex-Driver Joe Marriott,** late of 49th Division R.E. Signals, 1914-18, who had only been prevented from cycling all the way from his Chesterfield home by an over-extended holiday.

The Officers, Retired Officers and their ladies 'took over' the Station Hotel and, with the Corps Band and trumpeters, together with **Drum-Major Robertson** and **Pipe-Corporal Molle,** of 32nd Regiment, in attendance, dined and danced well into the Scottish sabbath without a murmer of complaint. Even with the spine-chilling Piobereachd 'McCrimmon Will Never Return' ringing in the assembled ears, the Corps Band stole the show. During the evening one very distinguished old gentleman was apologetic that his First World War diary, which he recently presented to 32nd Regiment, had stopped suddenly at the Battle of Cambrai.

During the evening, congratulatory messages were read out from the S.O.-in-C., the Commander, Training Brigade, and the Chairman and General Secretary, Royal Signals Association.

Next morning, assembled in the City Hall of Perth, before the Regimental Drums of the 32nd, draped in the tartans of the old 51st, 52nd and 61st Signal Regiments, the gathering took part in a moving and inspiring service conducted by the **Rev. Ken Hughes,** at which the Master of Signals read the Lesson.

In the afternoon, a concert by the Corps Band provided a variety of entertainment which must be unique in the Army. Although earlier many had recalled **Mr. Ricketts** (founder of the Band), by the end of the afternoon even the most partisan agreed that today's youngsters, under **Captain Keith Boulding,** have little to learn.

At the close of the day, as the reunion came to an end, and everyone, tired but supremely satisfied, said farewell to friends, both old and newly made, the question on everyone's lips was "When is the next reunion?" It is doubtful if Scottish members will wait another 50 years.

(Photographs published by courtesy of Alex C. Cowper, 40, South Methven Street, Perth).

PLENTY OF SMILES AS THE MASTER OF SIGNALS COMMENCED TO DRAW THE WINNING RAFFLE TICKETS

Major-General Bradley, as Colonel Gurkha Signals, making the draw for the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) Raffle in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal. Also in the picture—Captain Boyle, O.C. 52 (L) Signal Squadron (V) who organised the raffle, Drum Major Robertson and Corporal Molle. (The raffle raised £315)

YOUNGER ELEMENT ENJOY THEMSELVES AT PERTH

Probable starters for the Centenary Celebrations?

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 'WIRE' FEATURE

Royal Signals in Pakistan Flood Relief.

DEPARTURE FROM DHARAN *(See account below)*

A cheerful party saw the Master of Signals and Colonel of Gurkha Signals off. In centre of back row General Bradley can be seen almost submerged in the traditional farewell garlands

Master of Signals and Colonel Gurkha Signals in Nepal

Lieutenant-Colonel G. L. Davies, A.A. and Q.M.G., Gurkha L. of C., writes:

"IN this, our Jubilee Year, we were privileged to have a visit from **General Bradley,** wearing his double hat of Master of Signals and Colonel Gurkha Signals. During his short stay, we hope we did not cram in too much, but the opportunity only arises once in a lifetime, and those of us on the British Gurkha L. of C., were delighted that he had been able to visit us. In the course of his stay, he received a full briefing on what we do and why we are here and, as always with **General Peter,** the timetable was full, not only by what he had to see, but by his intense interest in the people that he came into contact with.

He presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **W.O.II Tankabahadur Rai, Staff Sergeant Damberbahadur Limbu, ex-Staff Sergeant Asbahadur Lama.**

In addition to this, he presented **Sergeant Robertson** with the Meritorious Service Medal. His interest in our hospital, the work by the Welfare Officer and the Resettlement Course made everyone on the L. of C. comment on what an interesting and delightful General we were privileged to have at our head. Time only allowed a short visit to the hills, but time to hold a rod, hopeful that a mahseer would bite. This would undoubtedly have caused great controversy amongst past and present members of Gurkha Signals, but our Permanent Cadre Quartermaster said that anything less than 15lb. had to be returned, fortunately it did not arise.

General Bradley left us to return to the United Kingdom, full of vim and vigour, as we have known him for years in the past, to attend the Scottish reunion in Perth. I hope that my old Regiment and all my friends in Scotland enjoyed having him as much as we have enjoyed having him on the British Gurkha L. of C. We may be in the outback of beyond, and we may get a lot of visitors, but we really appreciate visitors like **General Peter,** who made us all feel that everything we did was so worthwhile."

Movements

Officers

Second-Lieutenant J. D. Ambrose	...	To 24 M.S.C. Regt. R.A. Sig. Tp.
Captain C. D. A. Blessington	...	„ 8 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Major J. B. Booth	...	„ 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant P. J. Bowles	...	„ 11th Regiment
Captain P. J. Brunton	...	„ 4 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain C. E. Byrom	...	„ 13th Regiment
Major B. C. Carpenter	...	„ 1 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant I. N. Carruthers	...	„ A.A.C., Harrogate
Captain P. E. A. Chaddock	...	„ 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. A. Collyer		„ 11th Regiment, to retire
Captain D. W. Cook	...	„ 19 Inf. Bde. H.Q. & Sig. Sqn.
Lieutenant G. R. Elliott	...	„ 1 Gordons
Major (Q.M.) W. G. Finch	...	„ 21st Regiment
Lieutenant L. G. French	...	„ 11th Regiment (Course)
Captain J. L. Golding	...	„ 40 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt., as Major
Major N. C. Grayson	...	„ School
Lieutenant K. Hadfield	...	„ 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Captain I. J. Hamilton	...	„ School
Lieutenant J. D. M. Ingram	...	„ H.Q. AFCENT (227 Sqn.)
Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. Irwin	...	„ U.S. Army Sig. Cen. & School
Major (T.O.T.) F. Iveson	...	„ M.O.D. Signals 36
Captain (Tfc.) W. R. S. Kennedy	...	„ 3 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt.
Major K. Kirkby	...	„ 11th Regt. (HS) for special duty as Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captain F. R. Maynard	...	„ B.D.L.S. Canberra, as Major
Captain R. J. L. Middleton	...	„ Mintech (E.Q.D.)
Lieutenant D. F. Moir	...	„ Trucial Oman Scouts
Captain W. C. Nicoll	...	„ Mintech (E.Q.D.), as Major
Lieutenant M. D. Patterson	...	„ 26 A.Y.T., as O.C. Team
Major D. Pitkin	...	„ 71st Regiment
Captain T. B. Scarff	...	„ 22nd Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith, M.B.E., D.C.M.	...	„ Dte. of Military Operations
Lieutenant A. J. Spillane	...	„ 19th Regiment, as Captain
Lieutenant J. R. Stuart	...	„ J.T.R., Rhyl
Captain J. M. Sweetman	...	„ 14th Regiment
Captain R. D. K. Thompson	...	„ School
Lieutenant C. R. Treeby	...	„ 222 Squadron
Lieutenant Q. Vigurs	...	„ 2 Div. H.Q. & Signal Regt., as Captain
Captain (T.O.T.) K. J. West	...	„ 253 Squadron
Major P. J. F. White	...	„ 8th Regiment
Lieutenant P. Williams	...	„ 83 A.Y.T.
Lieutenant R. F. Willsher	...	„ Jungle Warfare School, as Captain

W.O.s and Sergeants

W.O.I (Y. of S.) E. Bell	...	To 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
A/W.O.I (Y. of S.) J. P. Beasley	...	„ 8th Regiment
W.O.II J. R. Markham	...	„ 11th Regiment
W.O.II T. M. Martin	...	„ 39th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) D. Thom		„ 10th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) R. A. G. Allen		„ 36th Regiment (V)
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) A. Tomlinson		„ 13th Regiment
Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) M. J. D. Groom		„ 8th Regiment
Staff Sergeant F. Atkins	...	„ 21st Regiment
Sergeant K. D. Donaldson	...	„ 6 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant T. Jarrett	...	„ 255 Squadron
Sergeant F. C. Brown	...	„ 222 Squadron
Sergeant M. Scott	...	„ 261 Squadron
Sergeant G. S. Spearpoint	...	„ 253 Squadron
Sergeant B. P. Pettifer	...	„ 9th Regiment
Sergeant P. R. Wagstaff	...	„ 14th Regiment
Sergeant A. V. Lamb	...	„ 252 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Brett	...	„ 8th Regiment
Sergeant T. Crawley	...	„ 7th Regiment
Sergeant H. G. Houston	...	„ 255 Squadron
Sergeant J. A. Murphy	...	„ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant J. H. Young	...	„ 22nd Regiment
Sergeant G. A. Pritchard	...	„ 259 Squadron
Sergeant C. H. Hollander	...	„ 11th Regiment, 2 Squadron
Sergeant P. A. Sinclair	...	„ 8th Regiment
Sergeant A. R. Threlfall-Searson	...	„ 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. D. Thorburn	...	„ 227 Squadron
Sergeant G. E. Saxton	...	„ School of Signals
Sergeant J. R. Atkinson	...	„ 222 Squadron
Sergeant T. Haffenden	...	„ 252 Squadron
Sergeant J. E. Dickenson	...	„ 261 Squadron
Sergeant P. Gorman	...	„ 21st Regiment
Sergeant A. G. Neilson	...	„ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant D. C. Toller	...	„ SHAPE H.Q. Command and Support
Sergeant G. A. E. Marshall	...	„ 7th Regiment
Sergeant B. A. Hulme	...	„ 252 Squadron
Sergeant M. W. F. Snook	...	„ 14th Regiment
Sergeant R. T. Howe	...	„ School of Signals
Sergeant C. A. Arundel	...	„ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant C. E. Biggs	...	„ 13th Regiment
Sergeant G. Harris	...	„ 20 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant R. V. Tuite	...	„ 11 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.
Sergeant M. P. Thomas	...	„ 222 Squadron
A/Sergeant B. P. McGerty	...	„ 7th Regiment
Sergeant T. R. Mallabone	...	„ 253 Squadron
Sergeant M. A. Thurgood	...	„ 21st Regiment
A/Sergeant A. H. Wilcox	...	„ 11th Regiment
Sergeant J. Crannage	...	„ 2 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant F. W. Edwards	...	„ 653 Troop
Sergeant L. J. Dicker	...	„ 30th Regiment
Sergeant D. G. Edmond	...	„ 30th Regiment
Sergeant J. Spink	...	„ 4 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. J. Crowe	...	„ 222 Squadron
Sergeant M. L. N. Chaloner	...	„ 1 Div. Signal Regiment
Sergeant P. C. Grattan	...	„ Trucial Oman Scouts
A/Sergeant J. D. Welch	...	„ 6 Armd. Bde. Signal Sqn.

A National Serviceman Returns

Colonel John North, now retired, but still serving the Corps as Project Liaison Officer for the rebuild of Vimy Lines in Catterick Camp, recently received a long letter from an ex-N.S. soldier who had served under him and who had made a pilgrimage to revisit the scenes of his early days in the Corps in 1951.

Space prevents the publication of this letter, written in reminiscent mood by **Mr. R. G. Bowker** (ex-Signalman 22603966) but below we publish some extracts:

"I searched for the once-familiar things that would stir my memory and complete the picture of 18 years ago. Directly behind me was the old NAAFI (now the Corporals' Club) and I recalled that cold October afternoon of 1951; how I stood feeling very sorry for myself, a small, insignificant youth, in an equally insignificant group. A Troop marched smartly past, arms swinging, heads high, completely oblivious of our presence. We were informed by a deep-throated ramrod of a man that two weeks hence he would leave us in that condition. Unbelievable, I thought, but so was everything else that day."

* * *

A few short steps, and I now faced what had once been your office. I still, even now, gazed at it with a certain kind of awe and recalled that I had only visited the 'Holy of Holies' on one occasion. Even then, the privilege of being spoken to personally by the Colonel was denied me, as I again formed part of a group and heard you wish us well on our return to civilian life.

* * *

Returning in time, I crossed to and fro over the square, unable to accustom myself to the remarkable quietness that prevailed. I accepted the noise of the building project in close proximity to the square, but the deep-throated roar of the drill sergeant, the disciplined tread of boots and the harsh snap of rifle drill was singularly noticeable by its absence.

Reluctantly, I now walked away, pausing momentarily in front of the now-derelict guard room and accepted, as we all must, that progress is inevitable, changes are engendered from this and nostalgic reflections cannot and must not hinder if we are to move forward.

Gaining the road once more, I turned wistfully to offer a silent farewell and fate, as if in answer to my thoughts, offered me a link with the past. There, on the notice board, and rightfully so, was the name of you, sir, proclaiming your task of Project Liaison Officer. There and then I vowed I would take (perhaps, I hope, a forgivable liberty) of writing to you and to wish you well in your present task.

* * *

An invitation to **Mr. Bowker** to visit Catterick once again, this time with an official escort to show him around, was soon despatched from **Colonel North** and **Lieutenant-Colonel F. C. Lockwood,** Commanding Officer of 11th Signal Regiment.

Mr. Bowker spent a complete day under the wing of **Captain R. W. Simmons, B.E.M.,** getting a closer view of the modern Army, and in particular how a recruit's life today compares with that of 1951.

Mr. Bowker left 11th Signal Regiment with his views on the Army changed somewhat, as can be seen from the letter written to **Lieutenant-Colonel Lockwood.**

"Dear **Colonel Lockwood,**

In writing this letter of appreciation, I hope that, in some small way, I can discharge my debt of gratitude to you and your Regiment for a most memorable day.

In my previous letter to **Colonel North** I spoke of a certain amount of trepidation as I approached Catterick Camp. I must confess this feeling was again apparent until I was placed in the most able hands of **Captain Simmons.** From that moment, however, the courtesy, charm and expert manner in which this officer conducted my 'tour of inspection,' alleviated any further apprehensions I might have developed.

During the walk round the Regiment **Captain Simmons** was most informative and enlightening in his outline of the image the modern army portrays in today's society.

I was very pleased, and frankly surprised, when I was allowed to speak to the new recruits in our visit to the barrack rooms. I was permitted, nay invited, to question the men on their various reasons for joining the service. The discussion was frank, concise and the manner in which **Captain Simmons** interposed drew interesting points of view from both sides.

I would be failing in my duty if I overlooked my inspection and subsequent lunch in the Regimental Mess. The cleanliness, choice of fare and seating arrangements are deserving of the highest praise. The food was admirable and certain restaurants in Manchester would do well to model themselves on this. The invitation to lunch was, to me, yet another salient point in a most memorable day.

The culmination of my visit was, in my view, the invitation to meet you, sir, and in our short talk I was impressed with the obvious genuine approach and humanitarian way in which the Army now faces its problems.

Before my visit I, in common with most ex-National Servicemen, had (what I now admit unfairly) been the perpetrator of a certain amount of brain-washing of the modern youth. Tales of barrack room 'bull' and other unqualified remarks about our service days had probably kindled the first flames of doubt in the erstwhile recruit's mind.

Now, in the short time my visit permitted, I was slowly and surely dispelled, without bias, of my defunct ideas of military life.

I have no doubt at all that the modern army, with all the technological benefits it has to offer, be reciprocated in full by the outlook and ideas that today's youth can provide. The two equated will, I feel sure, strike an excellent balance of maturity and forward-looking vision that will be of material benefit all round.

It only remains for me to say how grateful I am for the most cordial way in which, even as an ex-Signalman, I was received and treated by 11th Signal Regiment, Royal Signals.

Please convey my personal thanks to **Captain Simmons** for his contribution to my most enjoyable day, and to you, sir, for your kind permission to visit your Regiment.

Yours sincerely,

R. G. Bowker.

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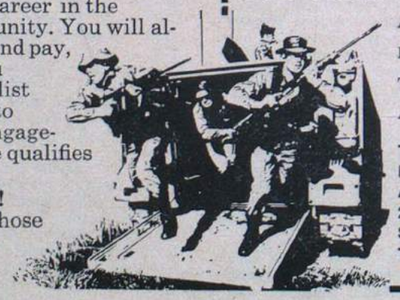
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356



A D13 DETACHMENT OF 14th SIGNAL REGIMENT IN JORDAN—SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1970
Sporting their Red Cross "uniform" are:—
Standing, Staff-Sergeant (F. of S.) P. Hodson, Lance-Corporals R. Dudding and B. Brebner, Captain T. T. Hallchurch and Corporal T. Sobey
Sitting, Lance-Corporal E. Pickering, Corporal T. Lees, Signalman S. Blow and Sergeant C. Bonwick

Further Report from Jordan

Captain Hallchurch, O.C. Royal Signals contingent, in a late despatch, writes:

On 30th September, the order to go was given, and the force suitably dressed in civilian clothes, complete with the Red Cross adornments, flew into Amman from Cyprus. On arrival, we set up a field hospital in the nearly-completed King Hussein hospital at Wadi-Es-Sir, about eight miles outside Amman. The hospital, near the King's palace, is in an area found then to be encircled by Jordanian Army Centurion tanks, which made us all feel a lot safer. By the morning of 1st October, the hospital received its first patients, mainly old cases that had lain in houses since the shooting, and who were in a very bad way. The D13 link was set up to 12 Signals Unit in Cyprus, whilst the A13s were used as a link to the airport.

Next day it was realised that the International Red Cross, which was 'organising' and co-ordinating the various medical teams, had no communications. To restore the position, a radio detachment of 262 Signal Squadron, under **Sergeant Banks,** as well as more men and equipment, including a 40/160 telephone exchange from 30th Signal Regiment, joined the force.

In addition to setting up a telephone exchange in the British hospital, with lines to the American field hospital and the Jordanian Army, a complete radio net was established to provide International Red Cross with communications. This net, serving a multitude of nations, was entirely Royal Signals manned.

The various teams that communications were provided for reads like a United Nations list. At the height of the operation, links were provided to the International Red Cross Headquarters; the Danish team at Jewel Ashrafaya Hospital, in the middle of the Commando-controlled territory; the Russian team at the Palestinian Red Crescent Hospital, also at Ashrafaya; the German team and Swiss teams at Wadi-Es-Sir; the Swedish team (oh those nurses!) at Jerash (once the Roman capital) about 120 miles north of Amman; the Italian hospital, in the town, plus telephone links to the French and American hospitals and telephones at the airfield.

Lots of other tasks were undertaken by the Royal Signals element, from fixing lights for the operating theatre, wiring up skin graft machines, to producing a daily news sheet, transcribed from the B.B.C. news, received via the D13 monitor.

On one occasion, a 262 Squadron Land Rover had to be used as an ambulance, with **Lieutenant Chris Grant** in attendance, when three boys had been badly injured when a mine went off. Although one died, the other two, we are pleased to say, are now fit and well, thanks to the speedy action of the radio detachment.

All the force got on very well with the Jordanian people, especially the army, and one day I was able to have tea with some guerilla commandos in the Roman ruins at Jerash.

The hospital itself, with a basic 50 beds, usually had over 60 patients. During our stay, over 250 major operations were carried out by the Field Surgical Team under **Major Adrian Boyd,** R.A.M.C. The hospital had many distinguished visitors, including King Hussein, members of the royal family, and the British Ambassador. Before leaving Jordan, the government invited the whole force to the Intercontinental Hotel for lunch, and everyone was presented with medals bearing the inscription "A Token of Gratitude."

The D13 detachment, under **Foreman of Signals Pat Hodson,** who are veterans of Libya, Gan, Virgin Islands, Northern Islands, etc., provided constant and reliable teleprinter communications to the outside world throughout Operation 'Shoveller.' All the Royal Signals personnel will have happy memories of Jordan, with sympathy for the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

One cannot complete a report on the operation without thanking **Captain Tony Gatward** and his men of the Airfield Troop at Akrotiri for all the help, not only when in Cyprus, but also in sending out to Jordan such essential supplies as KEO and Vat 69, when they were so badly needed.

A Trip to the States (I)

By Lieutenant Keith Rowbory, Royal Signals

An extended tour of the U.S.

ONE advantage of being stationed at the Royal Military College of Science is that the degree course officer has a lot of time available to do something useful during the four-month summer vacation. Being a scientist as opposed to an engineering student, I was not obliged by the Corps to spend any of that period in the form of an industrial attachment. I soon arrived at the conclusion that it would be profitable to devote the bulk of the period to making an extended tour of the U.S.A., realising that this could well be the last chance in the foreseeable future of having the opportunity for such an adventure.

Being a member of the British Officers' Christian Union, I contacted our American counterparts and offered them my services for whatever time I was able to spend out there. I was unable to be more precise about the dates because I had decided, in the interests of expense, to travel there and back by R.A.F. Indulgence. That turned out very well and I was able to make the two trips across the Atlantic for only £10.

The American O.C.U. let me know that they'd be willing to have me along, and would I kindly come prepared to run the 'Teens Program' at their Family Summer Training Camp. Not knowing quite what was in store for me I agreed, and promptly forgot the whole business as, once again, our much-dreaded examinations began to approach.

On to the Rockies in Colorado

After taking a week off in mid-June to recover from the aforesaid examinations, camping in the Lake District, I returned to College and, in four days, found myself boarding an R.A.F. Comet at Lyneham. Six hours later, after a short but pleasant stop at Gander, we touched down in Andrews A.F.B., Washington D.C., in the middle of a hot (85°F.) and humid summer afternoon. I stayed on base that night in the hope of catching a lift with a U.S.A.F. flight west, since I had discovered that the O.C.U. camp was in the Rockies, Colorado. This was impossible, however, so I hopped onto a bus which took me into the capital, and spent a pleasant day's sightseeing there.

That evening I caught a Greyhound bus, and two days (and 2,000 miles) later found myself in Denver, Colorado. There I was met by an O.C.U. staff member and his wife, and spent 24 hours at their apartment recovering from the trip. We then drove down to the Camp—some 130 miles south-west into the mountains—by way of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. This was very impressive, very modern, and beautifully situated, nestling as it does into the foot of the Rockies.

For the next eight weeks I was fully involved in my work with a daily changing crowd of American boys and girls, aged between 11 and 15. Not having spent much time with youth before, this was to prove something of an experience — an intensely rewarding and satisfying one too.

Camping in an ideal site

The camp itself is set into the side of a steeply walled, heavily wooded canyon 9,000ft. up in the Rockies, and is surrounded by peaks rising to above 14,000ft. The property is completely enclosed by National Forest, which ensures privacy. It comprises a large central lodge, able to cope with 50 or so people for meals and quite a few more than that for general meetings. A number of outlying chalets and log cabins provide most of the living quarters. The mountain stream flowing through the camp provides a plentiful supply of very pure, very fresh water. The three small lakes beneath the lodge are well stocked with trout (delicious for breakfast) and provide excellent sport for the fishermen and canoeist—as does the small river flowing alongside (called a 'creek'). At 42°F., the water is really too cool for swimming but the 'kids' were very keen on tipping their 'Mad Englishman' out of his ship —however, I always succeeded in dragging a few in with me.

Space doesn't permit me to go into much detail concerning the programme there. Members of the O.C.U. and their families would stay at the camp for anything between a week and a fortnight and, on arrival, would slot into the normal weekly programme, run continuously from the end of May to the first week of September. Mornings were usually spent in the form of Bible studies and discussions, with the emphasis on discovering what the Bible had to say concerning practical Christian living within the Armed Services, and learning how to apply it. In the afternoons families would be free to do as they liked. Some of the activities offered were:

Taking a jeep up the steep, rough mountain trails through the beautiful scenery.
Scrambling up to the mountain peaks.
Swimming in some nearby hot springs.
Visiting ghost towns, disused mines and tunnels in the area.
Riding.

KEITH ROWBORY AND HIS GANG
The kids warming themselves around the breakfast fire after a very chilly night under the stars

A weekend off

After a fortnight or so of being immersed up to my eyebrows in American teenagers, the camp director deemed it advisable to allow me a weekend off. This enabled me to travel further afield, see more of the country, and stay with some of the friends that I had quickly found there. More than once, I found my way over to Aspen, a key winter sports resort. In the summer it attracted a very large number of 'hippies,' and they were all over the place, with their long hair, colourful dress, and reeking of 'pot.' There I was able to attend one of the performances held by the International Music Festival in an enormous tent set up for the purpose. The standard was very good.

On another occasion I drove 800 miles down into Arizona to take two children home. Driving a large Chrysler saloon (350 h.p. Dodge) through vast stretches of desert (temperatures well up into the 100's) it says much for the standard of American roads, and vehicles, to realise that the journey took only 14 hours in all. And that still allowed us an hour and-a-half at the Grand Canyon (plus other shorter stops for food, 'gas' etc.). Despite all the pictures and descriptions of it that I had seen, I was just not prepared for the immense size, colour, and sheer grandeur of the thing; it was breath-taking.

Sad to leave

After eight weeks at Spring Canyon, I was rather sad to have to leave, but time was passing, and it had been decided that I ought to spend at least three weeks touring the country. The first week saw myself and an OCU staff member driving up to Seattle, the Washington State capital, situated in the extreme north west of the country, on the Canadian border. We went by way of the Yellowstone/Grand Teton National Parks, which were great fun and well worth twice the time we were able to spend there—an absolute must for all visitors to the country—hot springs galore, geysers, waterfalls, wild-life, mountains, lakes and forests.

Highlights

At Seattle, I caught a Greyhound bus (these were to be my home for the next two weeks) and I steadily made my way around America. I met the most interesting and friendly people, and saw a large slice of the terrific variety of scenery which the country has to offer. Some of the highlights of the tour were:

Two crowded days sightseeing in Sacramento and San Francisco.
An afternoon and evening in Disneyland (another absolute must).
A restful weekend in San Diego—right on the Mexican border.
A flying visit round the NASA Space Centre at Houston.
A day's water ski-ing in Florida, plus a trip to Marineland to see the dolphins and whales do their fantastic tricks.

My trip ended in Washington, D.C., where I spent two days giving a closer look to what I had glimpsed on my way in. I was looking forward to making a three-day trip to New York, Boston, Niagara Falls, and back, when my plans were shattered by the R.A.F. offering me a flight out the next day. Hasty farewells to the kind people looking after me in Washington were followed by a four-hour bus ride to New York, where I immediately caught another bus out to Kennedy Airport and clambered aboard the Hercules. I soon fell asleep on top of the MFO boxes, and remained that way for much of the nine-hour trundle across the waves back to Lyneham.

In retrospect

This brought to a rather quiet end what had been for me a very happy holiday in America. The pleasantness of my memories, of both country and people, is matched only by my eagerness to return. I strongly urge any fellow signaller, if the opportunity presents itself, to make the journey and find out for himself the truth about the States, sadly misrepresented as it is by the bulk of the press over here. If you go with an open mind, prepared to accept some of the different ways they do things, and willing to put up with the few less pleasant aspects of life over there, you will be greatly rewarded.

A Trip to the States (II)

By Second-Lieutenant Hugh Hancock

(Note: Hugh is the son of our own Major-General Mike Hancock, and is currently studying at London University under an Army Cadetship, prior to joining the Corps.—Editor).

I HAD six weeks in which to see some of the world. North America was an attractive proposition, and I applied for indulgence passages, which were kindly handled by **Lieutenant-Colonel Garnons Williams** in London and by **Colonel Dare** in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, who was also my contact address in the U.S.A.

I flew by Comet IV via Gander, Newfoundland, to New York's Kennedy Airport on Sunday, 16th August, having spent a night in the transit hotel at Lyneham before take-off.

Impressions of New York

It was after four in the afternoon when I left Kennedy Airport and eventually arrived at the New York West Side Bus Terminal on Manhatten Island. I had a long wait until the bus for Toronto left. New York - Toronto was the first leg of the journey to Vancouver. I inspected the bus terminal area of the city and came to the conclusion that New York is definitely not a city that I would choose to live in. The sky-scrapers made people seem insignificant ants in a vast, scruffy nest. The tops of the skyscrapers were getting lost in the smog, while at their feet the streets and pavements were littered with waste-paper, consisting largely of the last seven sections of the 'New York Times.' On the street corners men who stood gazing vacantly at the world going by, were watched by vast policemen, made ungainly by swinging holsters and billy-clubs hanging down to their knees.

I left New York in the gathering darkness and slept most of the way to Toronto. Toronto was a relief after New York, for it had a freshness about it, which was enhanced by water sprinklers and glorious sunshine, undimmned by smog. The well-conceived new City Hall and other buildings in the down-town area, together with the incredible cleanliness of the streets, were evidence of the civic pride of its people.

It was in Toronto that I encountered the technicalities of the North American breakfast. I asked for fried eggs. However, it transpired that there are at least four different ways of frying eggs, so I settled for 'sunny side up,' which materialised as British standard fried eggs.

An unusual travelling companion

From Toronto to Sault Ste Marie, on the Canadian side of the neck of Lake Superior, I travelled in the company of a very pleasant Red Indian, who started by telling me that he was going to look for a job in Sault Ste Marie, as it was near where he grew up. About half way there, the bus made one of its regular stops for meals in a small town. The Indian and I rejected the bus terminal cafeteria as distinctly unsavoury and chose a different, and rather more pleasant one, further up the street. As we sat down to our hamburgers and French fries, he pulled out an official-looking document and said "I was let out of jail this morning." He explained that he had been jailed for six months for committing an assault when he was drunk, and was about to begin two years' probation. He had been in jail twice before, once for another assault and once for what he called 'teft.' His story seemed to accord with the theory that Indians coming off the reservations are very susceptible to drink.

Bound for the Far West

I checked my belongings as he left the following morning, and then settled back to watch the scenery go by. The bus was luxurious by European standards, for it had reclining seats and tinted windows, which provided relief from the sun. We averaged 60 m.p.h. regularly. The countryside changed from rocky, pine-covered hills to the rolling plains, as we passed from Ontario into Manitoba. Winnipeg, the provincial capital, is the only inland city I have seen come up over the horizon. It seemed attached to the bus by a long grey ribbon of highway which stretched from horizon to horizon in a dead straight line.

The crossing of the plains took two-and-a-half endless days, 24 hours a day, 60 miles per hour. Across the province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and past such interestingly-named, but mundane towns of the Canadian Mid-West, Moose Jaw, Swift Current and Medicine Hat. Calgary sits on the edge of the plains, overlooked by the Rockies. The road suddenly dips into the Bow River Valley and then quickly rises out of Calgary to the stark and forbidding line of the mountains that stretch from the Yukon down into Mexico, and gives the Rockies their name. The name which is used as a blanket term for the ranges of mountains on the west coast, denotes the narrow band of stark rocks that long ago were the aiming point of the wagon trains as they moved west, to be seen for days before the wagon trains reached them. It is only a narrow band of rocks, and we were quickly through into the vast forested mountains of Banff National Park.

Vancouver

It was 6.30 on Friday morning when I decanted into Vancouver, the major city—though not the capital—of British Columbia. Vancouver is by far the most pleasant of the cities I visited in North America. It is well laid out and clean, has some very beautiful modern buildings, and also some older buildings, which give the city a character that some other cities lack, with their impersonal, shiny, modern, down-town areas. Within 20 minutes drive of the city it is possible to see some of the most stunning vistas the Pacific coast can offer.

The Pacific National Exhibition was in progress while I was in Vancouver. To me, the most interesting exhibit was a lumber-jack display, which took the form of a contest involving log-rolling, tree-climbing, axe-throwing, log-cutting and tree-felling. The speed was incredible—a 12 inch thick pine tree being felled in just over 32 seconds.

I was taken to see a football match between the British Columbia Lions and the Ottawa Roughriders. I found Canadian and American football very annoying, as it is a stop/start sort of game. It consists of four quarters, each of 15 minutes, and each quarter is stopped twice for television commercials. Cheer leaders, in shiny, fringed bathing suits and white boots, ran through their routines, and at half-time, a vast band, some hundred plus, gave an exhibition of marching. The latter,

plus the novelty of the game, made it all worth seeing at least once.

I had now been in Vancouver nearly two weeks and left on the evening of Thursday, 3rd September, going due south to Seattle and then east to Chicago. While travelling from Seattle to Chicago, I sat next to a number of young Americans who gave me a very good idea of what the youth of America really thinks. It was surprisingly different from the impression gained from the newspapers. None of them really minded going to Vietnam, none thought of the radical protesters as more than a vociferous minority, and they were all shocked by the bombing of the U.S. Army Mathematical Research Centre in Madison, Wisconsin. They were, however, seething about the judicial system, which recently took three weeks to select two jurors, and which allows cases to drag on for years before reaching final decisions.

Some ignorance

I was amazed, too, by some of the ignorance displayed. I was informed that Britain still ruled Canada and that the Queen was considered to hold the same executive power as the President.

The route was dotted with small and uninteresting towns, which consisted of box-like buildings, rarely rising above two stories and inevitably festooned with wires.

Arriving at Chicago in the pouring rain, I summed up the city as like New York only worse. It does, however, have

A street in Chicago

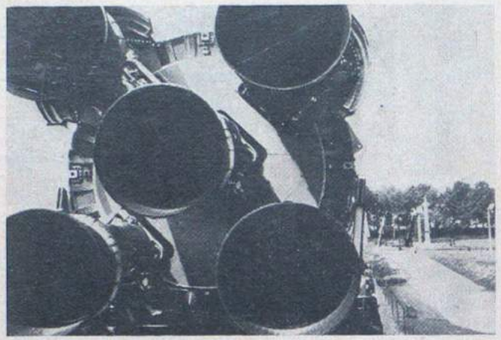
the saving grace of its lake frontage, which has been watched over with care. From Chicago I moved south, via Indianapolis and Nashville, to Tuscumbia, in North-West Alabama.

Tuscumbia is a small, typically southern town. It is affluent, has a majority of whites and is physically, but not socially, totally integrated. The town's claim to fame is that it is the birthplace of Helen Keller who, at the age of one year lost her sight and hearing. She ran wild until a teacher eventually made contact by 'writing' into the palms of her hands. Helen Keller went on to obtain a degree and spent her life helping to found and run schools for the blind until she died a few years ago.

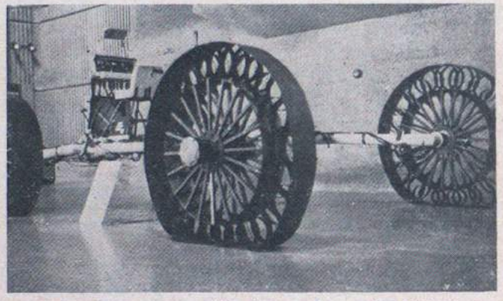
Moon museum

An hour's drive from Tuscumbia is Huntsville, which is the home of the Marshall Space Flight Centre, the Redstone Arsenal and U.S. Army Missile Centre. Also at Huntsville is the Alabama Space and Rocket Centre, which houses almost every rocket which the United States has taken off the secret list. In the outdoor display there are, amongst others, a German V-2, an Honest John and a complete Saturn V. The Saturn V is 360 feet long and is displayed on its side in order to be seen properly. The rockets of its first stage develop seven and-a-half million pounds of thrust, and each of the five nozzles is ten feet across. Inside the museum is a comprehensive collection of engines, satellites, capsules, moon buggies and working models.

From Tuscumbia, I went to Atlanta, Georgia. Built under



Atlanta Space and Rocket Centre
The base of the first stage of the Saturn V moon rocket



A 'Moon Buggy'—one of the designs submitted to N.A.S.A.

the street level of the city is a detailed reconstruction of city streets before the car ruined them. The streets are cobbled and the bars and shops have on old-time flavour, which is strangely false in an American setting.

Washington—deep contrasts

Atlanta to Washington D.C. was accomplished in 16 hours. The City of Washington is one of deep contrasts; the northwest, largely the diplomatic and government district, is a shining example of an American suburban area. But drive five miles east, and you are in one of the worst ghettoes in America, negroes just stand idly on street corners; car doors should be locked before driving through; garbage lies for days because of a seemingly inadequate collection system; and an atmosphere of fear can be felt all over the ghetto.

Washington also has the world's best museums. American efficiency means that in them all is very well arranged and described. The vast capital expenditure has meant there is little overcrowding, but being so new a nation, everything over 200 years' old has been brought from Europe, and Europe has been loathe to release its greatest treasuers. This is particularly noticeable in the National Gallery of Art, where, although the works of many great painters are on show, the actual pictures are usually minor works, bought from private collections in the great boom of selling paintings to America in the twenties and thirties. Lord Duveen, a major art dealer, was largely responsible for bullying Andrew Mellon, a multimillionaire, into donating the gallery to the nation.

From Washington to New York was a mere four hours. The second half of the trip had taken a fortnight, of which I spent five days in buses. The whole trip was over 8,000 miles. The final leg home was nine hours stretched out on packing cases in the hold of a Hercules. We landed in the early hours of Friday, 18th September.

Report from the Caribbean

We publish below a verbatim account, as received from Harry Rose of the Bahamas News Bureau

British Tommies enjoy Bahamas winter sunshine

NASSAU, Bahamas.—As jet-setters wing in for the glittering high season in this island holiday resort, **Lieutenant Chris Dakin,** of Worcester, is enjoying, with the 34 British soldiers under his command, some of the things in sun, sea and sand that the tourists pay for.

Dakin is Officer Commanding 'E' Troop, 14th Signal Regiment, normally based at Norton Barracks, Worcester. His wife who, he says, outranked him as a captain in the W.R.A.C. when he was stationed in Singapore, is now a housewife.

On 21st September the Troop flew into this sundrenched resort capital by R.A.F. Air Support Command Hercules aircraft for about seven weeks of satellite communications exercises—and a measure of de luxe rest and recreation during off-duty hours.

[Bahamas News Photos by Frederic Maura

A FARAWAY PLACE IN THE SUNSHINE

Living under canvas in this sunny island holiday resort capital "is a bit of alright", vote men of "E" troop, 14th Signal Regiment from Worcester. They are here for a satellite communications exercise. Shown (*left to right*) are: Sergeant Peter Hill, Corporal David Tankard, Corporal Peter Towns, Corporal Frederick W. Hodsoll, Lance-Corporal Rodger Williamson

Lieutenant Dakin says that since he joined the British Army five years ago, he has travelled to 14 different countries. About Nassau, with its waving palm trees, crystal clear, iridescent sea and swinging nightlife, he said: "The men like it here. It's a bit expensive, but everybody's glad they chose the Bahamas."

The location for their communication exercises had to be somewhere at least 3,000 miles from Britain, he said, and it happened to be Nassau this time. Last year the Troop went to Honduras.

Since the Troop started living under canvas on what once was Nassau's international airport and is now the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre, they've been invited to sail on catamaran cruises to the sea gardens, swim in the warm coastal waters and take part in sports contests with the island's teachers' training college.

They've also shown their rifle prowess by shooting with Nassau's coppers at the Police Training Centre.

"All of us have served in many parts of the world," said **Dakin,** "but we don't get the chance to come out this way very often, especially to a tropical paradise like this."

Burly **Staff Sergeant Robert Paterson,** of Alloa, Clackmannanshire, turning a bright red in the Nassau sun, observed: "It's certainly different from swimming in Aberdeen!"

Dakin, originally from Thrapston, Northamptonshire, served with his captain-wife at Catterick, Yorks., after returning from Singapore, where they first met, following her being posted to the same Regiment he was in.

Other N.C.O.'s serving in 'E' Troop on the Nassau mission include another Scotsman, **Sergeant Jim Armstrong,** of Edinburgh, and **W.O.I (F. of S.) Reginald Banham,** of Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

The Troop will return to Worcester early in November.

Reclaiming hundreds of square miles of farmland from the sea

The Dutch Polders

By Sergeant B. Anderson, 13th Signal Regiment

EARLIER this year, **Lance-Corporal Houghton** and I went to Northern Holland to study land reclamation. We found the subject very interesting, and so thought a brief article might be of interest to readers of THE WIRE, especially those stationed in Europe.

Wresting farmland from the sea

Whilst every other country in Europe has remained—geographically speaking—as it always was, Holland has wrested much of her land from the sea. She has won no less than 600 square miles of farmland, and there is more to come. Over 80 per cent of this land is used for agricultural farming, the remainder is pastoral, with small townships. The reclaimed land is leased to young, go-ahead farmers, who apply for their tenancy against very strong opposition.

In modern times, Dr. Lely has been the main instigator of the scheme to reclaim land from the Zuider Zee, and in 1932, an enclosing dyke, seven years in the building, was completed. This turned the Zuider Zee into the Ijsselmeer—a large, inland, non-tidal, fresh water lake. Having been newly-reclaimed from the sea, this lake was not fresh water in the first instance, but in the course of time the salt sea water has gradually been drained off and the lake replenished with fresh water from rivers, such as the Dutch Rhine. Large areas of this fresh water lake were dyked off and reclamation started,

The dyking process

A word about the actual dyking process: to build the dyke, tons of boulder clay, which, incidentally, is found at the bottom of the Ijsselmeer itself, are literally dumped along the course of the proposed dyke. Then it is reinforced with concrete and a dyke wall built. Usually, the dyke has a road along the top of it.

After an area of water has been dyked off, channels are dredged along the sea bed to provide a temporary transport route into the Polder, as the reclaimed land is called. Once this Polder has been pumped dry by huge pumping stations, which surround it, special dredging machines, known as 'Ladies with big feet,' widen the drainage channels. These now serve the purpose of maintaining drainage, as well as, if the need arises, providing sufficient irrigation.

So far, two Polders have been fully reclaimed and are being farmed; a third Polder, the South Flevoland, has been drained and will, in the very near future, be opened. The final Polder, the Maarkerwaard, is due for completion in 1980.

All these Polders, with their proposed capital of Lelystad, are doing wonders for Holland's national economy. They provide a considerable amount of work, both in industry and, of course, in agriculture. Dutch experts are, naturally, in great demand for other reclamation schemes around the world.

If you like the outdoor life

For those people who like the outdoor life, the area of Holland embracing the Polders is the place for you. Camping sites abound; it is impossible to go more than a few hundred yards without seeing somebody with a fishing rod sitting patiently on the banks of one of the many canals, hoping for a bite; sailing appears to be second nature to all the Dutch people, and every town worthy of the name has excellent

swimming facilities in the shape of both indoor and outdoor pools. There is even the open sea for those who prefer it!

So, for those people who have never been to Northern Holland, and are attracted by the facilities offered, take your family next summer. You'll have a lot of fun. For those people who, like me, prefer nice lazy holidays, with the occasional sightseeing trip, take your family next summer as well. Take a trip to Harderwijk and, for the price of two beers, you can tour the Zuider Zee land reclamation works by pleasure steamer. The trip takes an hour and the boats are frequent; in the summer they leave Harderwijk quay every hour on the hour.

Harderwijk itself is well worth a visit, and the comparison of the quaint houses and shops to be found there, and the bright modernity of the new towns of the Polders is remarkable.

I have tried to convey a little of the beauty and interest of Northern Holland in this brief article. Perhaps you are tempted to go and see for yourself. If so, I'll see you next summer.

From 18th Signal Regiment

Devoted servants of the Corps

To the many hundreds of members of the Corps who have passed through the Princess Mary Officers' Mess in Singapore the faces of **Mr. Wong Heap Yew** ('Chad') and **Mr. Kartar Singh** will be familiar indeed. Despite their quiet appearance both have enough experience of excitement to keep a good novelist in business for years. There are, of course, many others with similar stories to tell in the Regiment.

Mr. Wong Heap Yew

Born in China in 1920, **Wong** made his way via Hong Kong to Singapore in 1933. His first job on arrival was with the British Army as deputy house boy to a Sergeant-Major on the island of Blakang Mati (now called Sentosa). He recalls the day when the Japanese arrived. The Sergeant-Major said, "You leave now and I'll see you when the Japanese have left." He spent the war working in the Singapore General Hospital. As soon as the war ended he sought employment once again with the British Army. He was recruited as a storeman but was employed as a barman. He joined G.H.Q. Signal Regiment (one of our founder Regiments) in 1946 and it was there that he acquired the nickname 'Chad' that has stuck to this day. He is so small that boxes had to be arranged for him to stand on to see over the bar.

In 1948 he moved with the Regiment to the new Officers' Mess in Tyersall Park and in 1959 he was made No. 1 barman at the newly built Princess Mary Officers' Mess. What of the future; **'Chad'** does not know anyway that there is a future. His only thought now is to continue serving the officers of the Regiment as he has served so many over the years.

"CHAD"—ALIAS WONG HEAP YEW
A great character. Well known to very many Corps officers who have served in Singapore

KARTAR SINGH
Officers Mess Manager—known to hundreds of officers who have served in Singapore

Mr. Kartar Singh

Kartar Singh was born in Punjab 54 years ago, the son of a First World War Sikh Infantry Officer.

Shortly after his 18th birthday a combination of fatherly influence and personal enthusiasm landed him at the gates of the Signal Training Centre, Jubbulpore. He served with distinction in the Indian Signals Corps, in such units as Peshawa District Signals — where at one time he served under a **Lieutenant P. E. M. Bradley,** now Master of Signals—'A' Corps Signals, S.T.C. Bangalore and 8 Technical Training Battalion in Salikotu.

In May, 1946, after a job well done, he collected his demob suit and disability pension from the depot Jubbulpore, and stepped back into civilian life.

After a few years of gleaning a very modest living from the 16 acres of land awarded to him by the Indian Government, he decided to seek better prospects elsewhere and so, in March, 1952, he sailed for Singapore, leaving his family to run the plantation.

Shortly after his arrival, **Kartar Singh** found work as a watchman with G.H.Q. Signal Regiment. However, his experience with the Pay Section of Number 3 Signal Training Centre soon became known to his superiors, and he was quickly elevated to the post of Officers' Mess Account.

Now the Accountant of Princess Mary Officers' Mess, he has given over 30 years of loyal and efficient service to the British —the greater part of which has been connected with Royal Signals.

An imposing figure, with a magnificent iron-grey beard and twinkling eyes, **Kartar Singh** is liked and respected by all who know him.

Before retirement catches up with him, he hopes to fulfill a life-long wish by visiting and working in Britain. We hope his dream comes true.

Footnote

For the benefit of those young soldiers who are content to remain Class II or III tradesmen, we would point out that **Kartar Singh** held a top rating in the following trades: Operator telegraph, Operator visual and line, Lineman, Driver, Despatch rider.

Exercise 'Surf'

LAST month's notes from 14th Regiment reported that one of their two TSC-500 satellite stations had gone to Singapore for various trials under the title of Exercise 'Surf.' **Major Basil Complin,** who commands the Squadron holding these equipments reports:

"Recently, 3 Squadron carried out tropical trials in Singapore with one of its two mobile satellite earth stations, the UK/TSC-500. This was a particularly significant event, as it was the first occasion the equipment has 'flown' and also been removed so far from its logistic support. The site chosen for the trial was at R.A.F. Amoy Quee, Singapore, alongside the permanent Skynet R.A.F. satellite station, and the honour fell to 'T' Troop, commanded by **Captain Peter Brunton,** to provide the trials station. The Troop flew out in Hercules and Belfast aircraft, and although aircraft unserviceability delayed their arrival somewhat, the station was erected and working to the other station in Worcester more or less on time. At this stage I joined the Troop as Trials Director.

During the five weeks of continuous operation, 3 Squadron claimed some notable Skynet 'firsts,' including establishing traffic circuits between Commcen Singapore and the TSC-500 with its associated Commcen at Worcester, and also into the U.K. network at R.A.F. Stanbridge through the U.K. earth station at R.A.F. Oakhanger.

The trial was a success, but it was not without its headaches. However, thanks to the technical expertise of **W.O.I (F. of S.) J. H. Lawrence** and the ability of the ED's under **Corporal M. F. Reynolds** to coax the liquid nitrogen plant into producing, we remained 'through.' Back in U.K., sterling work was done by **Lieutenant Roger Barry,** commanding 'S' Troop, and **W.O.I (F. of S.) J. A. Coxon** in obtaining urgent spares.

The presence of two side-by-side earth satellite stations, at times working a link together, attracted the attention of the *'Straits Times'* which ran an article under the heading 'How to talk to your neighbour across 45,000 miles of space!'

Exercise 'Surf' was interesting and enjoyable, and we particularly welcomed the opportunity of using our two stations for real, thereby making our name in Skynet circles."

TRAINING BRIGADE UPGRADING COURSES, JANUARY, 1971

Serial	*Course*	*Class*	*From*	*To*
1/42	Technician TE	II - I	19 Jan.	23 Sept.
1/81	Radio Operator ...	II - I	5 Jan.	19 Mar.
1/82	Radio Operator ...	II - I	19 Jan.	2 Apr.
1/51	Comcen Operator ...	II - I	5 Jan.	2 Apr.
1/41	Driver, R. Signals ...	II - I	12 Jan.	19 Mar.
1/30	Electrician Driver ...	II - I	5 Jan.	12 Mar.
1/18	Clerk Technical ...	II - I	12 Jan.	12 Mar.
1/29	Radio Relayman ...	II - I	19 Jan.	4 Mar.
2/57	Electrician Driver ...	III - II	5 Jan.	26 Feb.
2/34	Comcen Operator BIII to Cipher Operator BII	III-II	19 Jan.	2 Apr.

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Portsmouth Weymouth Winchester Malta

News from Regiments

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

Rugby

WITH the season now well under way, our team is developing very satisfactorily. Several new faces have emerged and are now playing regularly: **Second-Lieutenant Malcalm Sinton,** second row, **Craftsman 'Taffy' Owens,** full-back, **Corporal Trevor Johnson,** prop, and **Lance-Corporal Gordon Bennett,** wing-forward. Fortunately, we still have a hard core from last season—**Captain Chris Melhuish,** who is skippering the team again; **Lieutenant Roger Whitehead,** working hard on the admin. side; **Lieutenant Ian Wilson, Corporal Bert Taylor, Lance-Corporal Cagilaba, Lance-Corporal Alan James, Corporal Sam Mosedale, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) George Hall, Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Barry Hassal, Signalman Pat Lee** and **Lance-Corporal Dave Higgins.**

We have now completed the first two rounds of the Army Cup, beating 1st R.H.A. 83—3 and 13th/18th Hussars 48—0. The next round is against 27th Regiment R.A., in mid-November; but our eyes are set presently on a friendly match against the Welsh Guards earlier in the month.

Memories of summer

While on summer camp in the Mosel Valley, 2 Squadron played a game of soccer against the local village team of Noerterhausen. They were handsomely defeated by the handsome margin of 7—2, but obviously made friends in the process. They invited their opponents to Herford for a football weekend, and the invitation was accepted.

Having travelled 270 miles, our guests were perhaps not at their best when they faced the Regimental side on Saturday afternoon and lost 6—1. There then followed the usual entertainment that evening, and our guests gallantly turned out the following morning to face the 2 Squadron side. Having suitably softened up the opposition, 2 Squadron triumphed 5—2. However, the scores probably matter very little; 2 Squadron have made some good friends and hope to renew acquaintances next summer.

Running

As a 'warmer-up' for the Page Trophy Cross-Country Competition, we held an inter-Troop 'round-the-houses' relay race. Teams consisted of 20 (including one officer and two seniors N.C.O.s) and the course was a gruelling 1,000 yards, finishing uphill and up a flight of steps.

The race was started by the C.O. and Hotel Troop took an early lead. Their later runners couldn't hold off challenges from 'Foxtrot,' 'Kilo' and 'Papa,' who seemed to be battling for the leadership. However, when the last lap started, it was **Captain Paul White,** for Recce Troop, who had a lead of about 100 yards over **Sergeant Geoff Chaloner** of 'Foxtrot' Troop; he held on to his lead and the Troop were duly presented with the crate of beer.

As befits a star, **Sergeant Geoff Chaloner** had his personal revenge in the cross-country race proper on 16th October. He covered a very hilly five-mile course in 28min. 20sec.—1½ minutes ahead of his nearest rival, **Lance-Corporal 'P.J.' Probin.** In this event, the value of training was clearly shown. 'Kilo' Troop won hands down, their eight men having an advantage of nearly 100 points over their nearest rivals. Second and third places were keenly contested, and went to 'Oscar' and Recce Troops respectively.

Orienteering

The Regimental orienteering team, fresh from their success in the 4th Division championships, left in high spirits for the U.K. and the Army Championships. This took place in the New Forest on 26th October. The team consisted of **Second-Lieutenant Graham Hand, Staff Sergeant Jim Bowman, Sergeant Geoff Chaloner, Corporal Roger Burrows, Lance-Corporal 'P.J.' Probin and Lance-Corporal Mick Lee.** Here they met some very tough opposition, including several national representatives. They finished fourth in the major unit competition; all finished the course inside the allotted time, and Lance-Corporal Mick Lee, finishing 19th, was our best performer. Well done, all of you.

Sergeants' Mess

Another 'Major' event came to pass on Friday, 23 October, when we invited our Commanding Officer, eight Majors and O.C. L.A.D. to join us for dinner.

It was no mean task for **W.O.II Eric Simpson** (P.M.C.), **W.O.II 'Boots' Cockcroft** and **Sergeant Ken Cheetham** to prepare the Mess so that 130 of us could be seated for the occasion. After grace had been said by **Major the Rev. Bernard Hale,** the atmosphere quickly warmed up and many were surprised at the potency of our grapefruit de menthe. After a jolly good dinner, the R.S.M., **W.O.I M. E. Wilson,** made a speech of welcome to our guests, and farewell and good wishes to **W.O.I M. Dunmall, B.E.M.,** who now leaves us to become R.S.M. of 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron. Finally, the R.S.M. invited the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Birtwistle,** to address the 'backbone of 7th Signal Regiment'—a phrase which brought long and loud cheers. The C.O. thanked us for a pleasant evening and said how pleased he was to see us all so happy.

Later on, we were treated to some 'bare facts' of entertainment, which had secretly been arranged by **W.O.II 'Titch' Howker** (P.E.C.) and **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Brian Meachin.** The show was so good that 3 Squadron were immediately elected as the permanent entertainments committee.

W.O.II (Y. of S.) Gus Gurr produced a bicycle in the early hours of the morning, and the C.O. departed on his unusual steed, it having been converted in the meantime to a unicycle!

Motor cycling

It had to happen some day. Yes, we lost the B.A.O.R. Championship after a period of eight years. No excuses. 10th Regiment, R.C.T., produced the first and second teams—our 'A' Team came third. They then proceeded to win the Army Championships at Borden, so undoubtedly the best team won. Congratulations.

Our riders did very well, and all except **Signalman 'Scouse' Weeks** completed the trials. He, in the cross-country section, seemed to think he was on the West Ham Speedway track, and only the tree that stepped out and hit him stopped him from breaking the record. He's now recovering from a dislocated shoulder, but is sure to be back in the saddle soon.

The 'A' team members were **Sergeant Vic Jinks, Lance-Corporal 'Mick' Corrigan** and **Signalman 'Jock' Hampton.** Their performance in the observed sections and the cross-country was very creditable, but the less said about the map-reading the better. Final placings were 13th, 22nd and 14th respectively. 'B' team members were **W.O.II (Y. of S.) Vaughan Raynor, Corporal Harry Bishop** and **Signalman 'Scouse' Weeks**—whom we have already mentioned. **Yeoman Raynor** cleared a couple of sections that the Army champion came to grief on, which made it all worth while, and 'Old Faithful,' **Corpora Harry Bishop,** who can be relied on to finish any trial he enters, did so yet again.

Signalman Jock' Hampton leaves the Corps this month to transfer to the Sappers. Good luck—we'll see you again next year, no doubt.

Finally, a note for all ex-members of the 7th Signal Regiment team, which has been so successful in past years. Before this year's championship, the Chairman of B.A.O.R. Motor Cycling, **Brigadier P. Plunt, M.B.E. G.M.,** kindly gave his permission to the Regiment to present a new cup. This was competed for this year for the first time—the old one now belongs to us and can be seen in its accustomed position.

11th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp

Pass-off parade, 9th October

THE Inspecting Officer at this parade was **Brigadier C. E. Tonry, O.B.E.,** B.G.S. Signals. Troops passing-off were 1 Troop and 7 Troop commanded by **Lieutenant S. D. Galpin** and **Lieutenant N. C. Fairley** respectively.

Best recruits were **Signalman Gerdes,** 1 Troop, and **Signalman Simpson,** 7 Troop. **Signalman Gerdes** comes from Birkenhead and is now undergoing training as an Electrician Driver. **Signalman Simpson,** selected for Commcen Operator training, comes from Maidenhead.

Pass-off parade, 21st October—6 and 5 Troops

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Akass, Royal Signals, Officer Commanding 8th Signal Regiment, took the salute and met the visitors after the parade. He had a special word of congratulations for **Signalman Wills,** best recruit of 6 Troop, and for

Signalman Wills — Best Recruit

Signalman Thackray — Best Recruit

Signalman Thackray, best recruit of 5 Troop. Both of these young soldiers have now taken part in the Satisfied Soldier recruiting scheme.

Welcome to . . .

Captain Alan Browne, who has taken over Continuation Training Troop at Catterick, Scarborough and Stirling (we hope he enjoys the travelling). Also to **Major H. A. J. Alexander** who comes to us from 224 Signal Squadron and has taken over H.Q. Squadron. **Corporal Salter, Lance-Corporals Scott** and **Dagnall** have fitted into their various slots within the Regiment; a warm welcome to all.

Farewell to . . .

W.O.II Mathieson, Sergeant Crook and **Sergeant Tambling,** all moved on, in their separate ways; we wish them well in their new stations.

Army Cup Football

The Regimental soccer team, under the management of **W.O.II B. Styles** and captaincy of **Lance-Corporal Hedges,** travelled to Edinburgh to play 1st Bn. Queen's Own Highlanders in the first round of the Army Cup. With the score of 2-1 down at half-time there was still a chance of a draw. Although the Regiment was finally beaten 5-2, a score of 3-2 down ten minutes before full-time was a very creditable effort. Both our goals were scored by **Corporal Dorman,** with **Corporal George** and **Lance-Corporal Mudie** having an excellent game. It must be noted that the opposing team have been playing together for the past seven seasons and are holders of the Infantry Cup. This match was good value as our team is in training for the forthcoming Army Minor Units Challenge Cup.

Presentation to Sergeants' Mess

In May this year the Regiment were hosts to the National Police Dog Trials. Several presentations were made by the Police to the Regiment. **Superintendent de'Tute** presented a mounted truncheon and badge on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Dog Section.

Leaving the Corps—Captain Jack Crich

In 1942, the Royal Corps of Signals gained a young recruit called **Jack Crich,** a reluctant recruit, is how he describes himself.

However, after three years' war service in Europe, and trade training as an Electrician Signals (now Technician), **Jack** signed on as a professional soldier.

During the period 1945-1947 he was attached to the Indian Police to help them with their transition from pigeons to radios. (I did not believe it either but the records show it to be true).

From 1947 until 1950 **Jack** served with 'user trials Troop,' School of Signals, Catterick.

He then travelled widely: 1951, Gold Coast Signal Squadron as Sergeant; 1953, 7 T.R., Catterick, as S.Q.M.S.; 1955, Signals Equipment Troop, Tidworth; 1965, 6 Armoured Division (now 2 Division), Germany, as S.S.M.; 1958, Cyrenaica Signal Troop when it re-formed in Libya; 1959 as R.Q.M.S. to Malta, building ComCan installations at T.R.C. 'Bringemma'; 1960 to Cyprus, again building T.R.C.s at 'Paramali.' In 1962 **Jack** returned to England as R.Q.M.S. to 14th Signal Regiment; after a few months he was promoted R.S.M. and returned to 2 Division in Germany.

Jack remained with 2 Division until he was commissioned in 1965; he was then posted to 30th Signal Regiment as Lieutenant. He spent the next four years between 640 Signal Troop and 30th Signal Regiment.

Those who know **Jack** well will also know that since 1967 he has suffered from a spinal injury. As a result of this injury his doctors advised him to leave the Army. Not giving in without a fight, **Jack** stayed on and in 1969 joined us at 11th Signal Regiment as Second-in-Command of 1 Squadron. He became well known for his wealth of information. Supported by his wife, **Joan, Jack** took an interest in all Regimental activities.

This August **Jack** decided to accept his doctors' advice and leave the service. Now, having completed his resettlement course with Barclays Bank, **Jack** has started a second career, in banking, with one of Barclays northern branches.

The best wishes of all those he served with go with **Jack** and his family in his new venture, after 28 years with the Corps.

18th Signal Regiment
c/o G.P.O. SINGAPORE

THE climate in Singapore is conducive to outside activities all the year round. One of the many clubs that flourish within the Regiment is the 'Hot rods.' Nothing to do with motor sport, in fact quite the reverse. They are the Regimental anglers.

The 'Hot Rods'

Every Sunday morning, very early, a party of some 25 members gather for a competition of some sort. Inter-Unit matches are held alternate weekends and our record is excellent. Unbeaten so far this season, most of the fishing is in artificial fish ponds. They are well stocked with Java and Carp (both common and grassy). The club, under the Chairman **Corporal 'Ricky' Rodgers,** placate the long-suffering 'Fishermen Widows' by sponsoring social activities in the Princess Mary Club from time to time. At these, the prizes for past successes are presented. Recent winners include **Corporal Pete Balby** (heaviest fish) and **Corporal Pat Marshall** (heaviest net and combined net).

Golf

This year the Royal Signals FARELF autumn meeting was on the Bukit course of the Singapore Island Country Club. This international course is 6,550 yards long with a rating of 71. The Regiment's exponents of 'Hockey at the halt,' as the honourable and ancient pastime was recently described, had considerable success. The Millichip Cup and the Tomtel Trophies were both won by **F. of S. Tony Bateman** of 249 Squadron. The main team event, the Australian Signals Cup, was won by the Regimental trio of **Captain Ray Windmill** (the Adjutant), **Captain (T.O.T.) Norman Walker** (1 Squadron) and **F. of S. Tony Bateman.**

Deepavali

Always the highlight of the Regimental social calendar this year's party was no exception. The Indian community within the Regiment, under the chairmanship of **Sergeant Alagu,** organised a memorable evening. An unusual feature this year

was that the Deepavali Dance was performed by a charming 10-year-old Chinese girl who has been adopted by a Hindu family.

SUCCESSFUL FISHERMEN (AND WOMEN)
Left to right: Corporal Pat Marshall, Mrs. Alice Johnson, Corporal Pete Balby, Staff-Sergeant George Johnson, Mrs. Jenny Spencer

SUCCESSFUL GOLFERS
Left to right: Lieutenant John McLean, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Hild (C.O.), Foreman of Signals Tony Bateman, Captain Norman Walker, Captain Ray Windmill

PLENTY OF SWING AT THE DEEPAVALI PARTY
In the foreground: Lieutenant (Retd.) Collier W.R.A.C. with Signalman Arhmalagan

UNIT DISCOTHEQUE
Signalman 'muscles' McLoughlin really 'goes' in the disco

Wives' Club

Deepavali was an appropriate time for the wives of the Regiment to hold an Indian morning. Over 50 of them were enthralled by tales of India told by **Mrs. Jumabhoy.** She explained the intricacies of Indian jewellery and the rituals that are associated with it. She also unfolded the mysteries of Sari wearing. We look to see if her talk will have any effect on the 'fashion scene' within the Regiment.

Halloween Party

Continuing the social round-up, the Princess Mary Officers' Mess held a rally-cum-party on the appropriate day. Singapore has never seen so many witches, devils or hobgoblins scurrying round the city. The organiser, **Lieutenant David Moir,** literally walked away with the prize. This party was almost his swan song for he shortly leaves us for Trucial Oman.

Princess Mary Club

The Princes Mary Club has gone 'mod.' To compete with the expensive local attractions of the big city we now have our own air conditioned discotheque. It was installed by self help as part of the general face-lift of the club. The decorations are oriental, one wall is alive with a fearful fire-breathing dragon.

Lieutenant Cheryl Collier (W.R.A.C.)

We said a fond farewell to **Lieutenant Cheryl Collier** on retirement. For the past 12 months she has been O.C. Exchange Troop and, from time to time, administration officer of 1 Squadron. Her sparkling personality will be missed from the Tanglin complex but she will still add charm to the Regiment for her husband, **Lieutenant Clive Collier,** is with us until March, 1971.

Inter-Squadron Cross-Country

The sun was hot and the going across Colombo Heath quite heavy when some 70 runners took off for this year's race. The 3½-mile course included three gravel hills, a jungle track and a Kampong with a pack of quite ferocious dogs. First back to the Dover Road sport field was **Signalman Palany,** closely followed by **Sergeant Lord.** The final team places were first 249 Squadron, second 1 Squadron, third H.Q. Squadron.

Exercise 'Silk Nose'

The Regimental Jungle Exercise 'Evergreen' over and the verdigris removed from equipment, it was time to look to internal security in anticipation of an island-wide exercise that is imminent. Our newly joined training officer **Lieutenant Charles Kemp,** had grand fun all day. Ably assisted by **Lieutenant Moir** he roamed the three camps that make up our locations in Dover Road, announcing himself variously as "A group of 20 school children bent on mischief," "A displaced man with six kids, a dog and two pet snakes" or "A howling mob of 200." Whilst simulating the latter he got a particularly harsh response from **Staff Sergeant Eddie Canale,** who turned the fire hoses onto him.

Soccer social

If the team had played as well as they celebrated the end of the soccer, they would have been unbeatable. The social in the P.M. Club was an excellent evening. **Major Terry Canham** was presented with a plague inscribed 'The most frustrated supporter' by **'Muscles' McClouglin,** our assistant 'Robbie Burns.'

H.Q., Singapore District, closes down

The rundown in the Far East, scheduled for the end of 1971, has had little visible effect on the Regiment so far. 'Think boxes' have been working overtime and voluminous plans have, and are, being prepared. The first real manifestation of the rundown was the closing of H.Q., Singapore District, in Tyersall Park during October. The residue of the District Headquarters staff have moved into the H.Q. FARELF complex in Tanglin. The 'Park' is now occupied by the Australians and New Zealanders.

19th Signal Regt.
c/o G.P.O. Singapore

Notes by Major A. P. Fielding

Sorely pressing problems

LIFE in the sun is not as ideal as some may think; you take your clothes off and you get burnt, put them on and you sweat, arrange a compromise and the mosquitoes home in; the amount of variety necessary in clothing now makes your tailor's bill exceed your pay and poverty is upon you.

With all these sorely pressing problems it has been necessary to take our minds off such things; in fact, our success in doing so has now given us a retrospective problem in not only wondering how we fitted everything in but, of all the many things, what should be recounted.

Cricket—of a sort

We could, for example, mention the Officers and Seniors cricket match against 18th Signal Regiment; how it was played under the exacting handicap of a can of Tiger per wicket, catch and six (plus one for the umpire extraordinary, **Colonel D. A. Polley**), even to the point of **R.S.M. Speight** informing the Adjutant that in the former's opinion the latter, on dropping a catch, was "A prize nit, sir!" (make due note of the deference shown—no charge was possible under AA 33(1)), but we won't mention it, other than to say rain stopped play when **Sergeant Colin Wood,** disguised as a small black cloud, brought the match to an end with a fire bucket and stirrup pump.

What is it?

Having not mentioned the cricket match it would hardly be fair to mention the 'arrers' match against 17th Regiment and how they narrowly won the 'Kipper Trophy'—a unique item of silver with a most curious origin; reputedly a Roman drinking goblet until it was hurled at Hannibal's elephants, missing Hannibal but not the elephant right marker's foot. There is the other school of thought that believes that **Sergeant 'Andy' Watson** sat on it—our historians are at logger-heads. Maybe some of our readers can enlighten us; the description is: Height, 10in.; breadth, 8in.; width, ¼in.

Sport

But, enough of this preamble; what would you like to hear about first? . . . Sport, perhaps? . . . This always holds a high place in any unit, and we are far from the exception. At soccer, under the captain, **Sergeant Terry Lowes,** we won the R.A.F. Changi League, the McClean Trophy, and were third in the Singapore District Division II. To name all the players would take too long, but there are two worthy of particular mention, and they are **Sergeant John Harvey** and our goalie, **Lance-Corporal Johnny Gumbs.** Five of the team played for the Corps side and two for the Army, one being the Army team captain. **Captain Gordon Issom,** as Officer-in-Charge Shooting, proved the team's prowess at the falling plate by winning five upright cups out of six competitions. At swimming, we won the Royal Signals' Singapore Meeting. We supplied half the Corps sailing team, which beat the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers.

Visit from the Master of Signals

We were honoured by the visit of the Master of Signals, **Major-General P. E. M. Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,** on 1st October. The Master himself set the tone on what was a very happy day by delighting **Sergeant Taib** and the Regimental quarter guard by talking to them all in Malay. Even Air Traffic Control saved all the day's drama for the ten minutes the Master was there—a VC-10 landed, two aircraft were picked up on the tracking radar, and there was a non-practice crash alert, fortunately not needed in the end.

Camp in the Cameron Highlands

Then there was the Regimental camp in the Cameron Highlands, in Malaysia, a delightful part of the world. The camp was arranged in two nine-day periods, and a good proportion of the Regiment managed to attend one part or the other. The first period was run by **Captain John Bingham** and **Captain John Roberts,** O.C. Changi Troop. **Q.M.S.I. Don Patterson** provided an unlimited variety of early-morning P.T., and the weather an unlimited variety of mist drizzle and downpours. The heavy rain caused innumerable landslides along the 30 miles of winding road through the highlands, and although it did not prevent the daily jungle training, it did cause many problems on getting equipment dried out. The cookhouse was the only source of continuous heat, a system which worked remarkably well. Dripping muddy clothes tended to enhance the 'brown Windsor,' but gave a curious 'manly' tang to the scrambled eggs.

Captain Alan Harfield and **Captain Gordon Issom** ran the second period; of course, the former being the Quartermaster, he had naturally indented for good weather. Unfortunately, he did not 'red star' it, so it was a couple of days before it came through. With the better weather came longer 'ulu marches', snakes and higher beer sales. **Captain Issom** took a party for a night out. It was not *quite* what the party had in mind when they found themselves basha building and mosquito swatting as the sun went down, but they did at least discover that things don't just go bump in the night in the jungle. The most distinct noise was alleged to have come from **Sergeant Hugh Meikle** when he sat on a snake; the rest of his party claim the snake made the noise. It was the only case of race relations in the whole camp; **Sergeant Meikle** and the snake put 100 yards between them in a matter of seconds.

All the camp personnel have now returned to Changi clutching blow pipes, Rajah Brooke's, and stories increasing in colour as they decrease in accuracy.

The beginning of the end

Now we move into what may very well be the last Ramadan, Hari Raya, Christmas and Chinese New Year period of the Regiment—a sad thought on which to conclude, but we will do our best to keep our spirits up.

A short footnote: **Signalman Sheik Ibrahim,** a lineman of Tengah Troop, has just been discharged from the Army after seven years' service. During this time he had represented the Regiment, Corps, District and Joint Services in athletics, and has won no less than 450 trophies! Can anyone beat that record?

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but there's more of it in the Australian Army

21st Signal Regiment (Air Support) B.F.P.O. 42

IT is with deep regret that we record the death of **Lieutenant Guy Waters** on 15th October. With 25 years' service in the Corps, including boy's service, he had many friends all over the world. A full tribute to his devotion appears on page 579, written by a brother officer who knew him as **'Boy Waters.'**

The funeral, at his home town of Uxbridge, was attended by representatives of his fellow officers, his Troop and the R.A.F., with whom he served for the last six years. We extend our sympathies to his wife Pauline and children Carolyn and Timothy.

A month of autumn exercises

Overshadowed by this sad event has been a month of autumn exercises and preparation for our FFR inspection—the second in nine months! The 'Snow Queen' winter camp is being prepared at Oberjoch, and the winter sporting season gets under way.

Sport

Quite apart from our orienteering successes, Regimental sport has never been more active than at present. The concentration of the unit in the Wildenrath area has produced larger numbers for teams to be selected from, and results all round are good.

The cross-country team train every lunch-time during the week and also on Sundays. Their schedule, under **R.Q.M.S. 'Mick' Hall,** is positively frightening, but it is certainly having the desired effect. A very closely-contested inter-Troop cross-country run was won this year by R.H.Q., who do not include any of the Regimental team. **Sergeant George Holden** was once again the individual winner in an excellent time.

The hockey team has been playing well and is still in the Army Cup. The basketball team is showing considerable promise.

There is also a lot of soccer talent and we have scored a large number of goals. Unfortunately, we were knocked out of the Army Cup by 3—2 in a very exciting struggle with 28th Signal Regiment, who deserved their win, but we reckon they will have trouble in beating us when we have had more time to develop as a team. **Signalman Jeff Ruffer** and **Craftsman Brian Saberton** are both playing very well and have earned B.A.O.R. trials.

Small bore shooting

The preliminary stages of the Army Rifle Association Winter Postal League having been shot, we find ourselves in Division 2 as the top Corps team, with the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate team as company.

ORIENTEERING

Second in Major Units Army Championship, 1970.
Team: **R.S.M. Matthews, Sergeant Holden, Corporals Storer, Woodford, Roissetter, McMillan.**

This started out for some of the cross-country squad as a break from the lunchtime training sessions! On winning the Rhine Area Championships, the bit was between our teeth and snowballed into a phase of preparing to do battle against the U.K. professionals (if the tales we heard were only half true). We are grateful to **Captain Coeshot,** R.A.O.C., the Rhine Area individual winner, who kindly came and gave us a talk on the method and tactics of 'real' orienteering, thus assisting us in our success.

After a 'warmer' in the B.A.O.R. Cross-Country Trial on Friday, the team did a 'Cook's Tour' to U.K. on Saturday—bus to Gutersloh, Britannia to Birmingham, train to Salisbury, and 'air-conditioned' three-tonner to Larkhill. Sunday was spent in the game of nonchalance—along with all other competitors—with many a furtive look at the 'Silva' compass to ensure it still pointed the same north as your neighbour!

Monday morning, 7.30, saw us gathered at the School of Artillery to be transported by coach to the RV. After a shorter 'Cook's Tour' (the driver not being orientated) we found the start area (near Verwood in the New Forest). It was then we found the course handicap—the girls of the W.R.A.C. were

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starting from the same place as us, but following a different course. Throughout the race it was noticeable how the soldiery kept close on the tails (to coin a phrase) of the lady contestants.

The weather was warm and sunny, the course twelve kilometres (for some!) with fourteen checkpoints, over undulating country of forest plantation and a bit of swamp. As the time went on and runners came in, our elation steadily grew; we were up with the leaders!

We got transport back to the final RV, showered and changed, then gathered in the NAAFI to watch the results being collated on a master board. Eventually the results were through and we were well beaten into second place by S.E.E. 8th Signal Regiment had some bad luck in not fighting us for our place and finished fourth; S.E.M.E. were third. Our congratulations, too, to the ladies of 24th Signal Regiment in coming first and second in the W.R.A.C. competition.

This was our first season, and we are learning fast. By next year we intend having a lot more knowledge and experience to better our position—bluebells beware!

H.Q. UNFICYP, B.F.P.O. 667

SIGNAL OFFICERS OF UNFICYP

Standing, left to right: Captain R. Horne, C Squadron The Royal Scots Greys, Captain P. Wilson, M.P. Company, Captain P. Boule, 644 Signal Troop. Inspector S. Sandstorm, Civil Police, Captain H. Sulzgruber, Austrian Field Hospital, Lieutenant P. Koch, Danish Contingent, Lieutenant C. Jegreus, Swedish Contingent, Lieutenant J. Thewlis, 644 Signal Troop

Seated, left to right: Captain S. Jansson, Swedish Contingent, Lieutenant R. Le Fleming, British Contingent (3LI), Captain G. Whitehead, Canadian Contingent, Commandant P. Purcell, G2 Signals, Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ranft, C.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel I. Bondeson, Chief Operations Officer, Captain G. Finney, 644 Signal Troop, Captain J. Kookla, Finnish Contingent, Lieutenant R. Dunne, Irish Contingent

Signallers exchange ideas

THE 'Signal Officers' Convention' is a monthly event which is organised by each national contingent in turn. Last week the convention took place at H.Q., UNFICYP, and the morning was devoted to a demonstration of mobile rear link communications as used by the different national contingents.

Each Signal Officer presented his own detachment demonstrating how all the sets are inter-operatable and how they can be worked through rebroadcast and control stations at Troodos.

These monthly conventions have proved to be an excellent forum for fostering greater co-operation between all contingents.

Signals Inter-Contingent Swimming Gala

On Friday, 18th September, the UNFICYP Signals Inter-Contingent Swimming Gala took place at the U.N. pool, Nicosia. Competitors from Britcon, Cancon, Dancon, Fincon, Ircon, Swedcon, the Force Reserve, and 644 Signal Troop participated. The final result was in doubt right up to the last race, with the eventual winners, 644 Signal Troop, narrowly defeating Swedcon.

Individual mention must go to **Staff Sergeant Baunkaer** (Dancon) in the plate diving competition, who retrieved 20 plates from the bottom of the pool in one dive; **Corporal Leveque,** of Cancon, in the 50 yards freestyle; **Signalman R. Fousert,** of 644 Signal Troop, in the 50 yards breast-stroke, and **Lieutenant Jegreus,** of Swedcon, in the 50 yards back-stroke.

The afternoon entertainment was not complete without a novelty event, in which teams competed against each other by racing in plastic boats. The winner of this free-for-all has still not been decided!

The Chief Signal Officer's Cup for swimming was presented by **Mrs. D. D. Ranft,** the wife of the Chief Signal Officer, to **Sergeant J. Annear,** of 644 Signal Troop, the captain of the winning team.

Live Oak, SHAPE, B.F.P.O. 26

News from SHAPE related in 'Stop Press' form by W.O.I P. Brown

ALTHOUGH there are only 12 Royal Signals Staff in Live Oak, it is amazing the number of things which have occurred since my notes in the August/September WIRE. However, before I give you to 'Stop Press' from Live Oak, I would like to insert a note of farewell to our Staff Communications Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel E. O. Smith,** and his good lady.

At the time of writing, the result of a farewell party will not be known, but to ensure our best wishes are printed in good time, they are inserted early (see editor's note last edition).

Lieutenant-Colonel Smith has been not only a good boss, but a very good friend to us all—leaning, pushing, growling, persuading and congratulating at the right selected moment. He leaves us to take up a post in the part of the M.O.D. where bowlers are of importance, and his pipe will be of a very special luxury. We all hope that he never forgets his lighter, baccy or bowler, as decisions are hard to make without them, also that he can continue his Wednesday afternoon recces in true British style. Our best wishes to you and your family, sir, and remember, whenever you are short of paper-clips, memo-pads, Selotape or coffee, there are plenty at Live Oak.

'Stop Press'

Newcomers.—We welcome our new Staff Communications Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel I. E. Simpson,** who will have been in the chair but a few weeks, but is assured of our full support. Also since our last notes, **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) K. McRae** and family and **Sergeant J. Hume** and family.

Achievements

Corporal Rooney.—In his first season as a squash player, he entered the B.A.O.R. Royal Signals Tournament and finished a very creditable finalist in the Plate Competition, his opponent having to drop out injured. Well done!

To top this occasion, his wife presented him with a second daughter, so great credit and congratulations to them both.

Corporal Beresford.—In his first SHAPE athletic meeting since his arrival, he surprised us all by taking second place in the individual high jump and third place in the long jump, a very good performance against other nationalities. Well done!

Corporal Siggs.—'B' Pass in his upgrading course Comcen Op. B1 congratulations.

Corporal Wells.—'B' Pass in his M.P.T.C. Class I Course, congratulations; he is now looking forward to his posting to 3 Division, having got all his qualifications.

Corporal Brown.—Away on his C Op. B1 course, and the 'Grapevine' tells us he is doing well; look sharp ,they are missing you in the rugby team.

Cricket.—Alas! After holding the Inter-Departmental Cricket Trophy for two seasons, we conceded defeat to the M.T. and Workshops, but this will make us even keener than last year, when the season opens again.

That's the lot for this time, but watch the WIRE for more news from Live Oak in the New Year.

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

CYPHER VACANCIES

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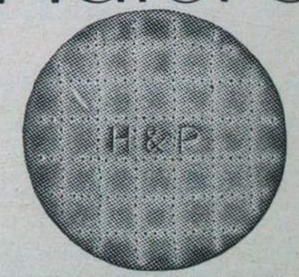

Such spready biscuits for butter, so ready for cheese!

4 Guards Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (204)

EXERCISE 'HUNCHBACK I'

An Impression by Corporal D. Crump

Quick thinking

AT 19.00 hours on Wednesday, 2nd September, all personnel taking part in this exercise were to meet in the Training Room for, what we thought, was to be a final briefing. When we were formed up in our respective detachments everyone was quite happy—but then things started to go wrong, for us. One by one the detachments were disappearing through a door and not being seen again. What a way to conduct a briefing. Briefing—who said anything about that? Behind that door was our 'glorious' Intelligence Section ably helped by a few members of the Sergeants' Mess giving us and our kit the once over. Money, sweets and 'liquid refreshment' was their order of the day—and they were really enjoying it. It was our turn now and in we went, but although we lost our sweets and liquid, some quick thinking saved our money and we got through with DM120. (Our thanks to the driver of our 3-tonner).

Alas—no communications

After the search we were bundled into our respective 3-tonners and taken for a grand tour of Munster before heading in the direction we were supposed to be going. About two hours later out we got, supposed to be lost, but somehow it's quite easy to see out of 3-tonners when it's closed up. We soon established our position and with four radio operators in my detachment, namely **Lance-Corporal Jimmy Simpson, Signalmen Chris Harman, Robbo' Robinson** and **'Chippy' Clancy,** I thought we'd have no problem in setting up communications with base. Through no fault of the radio operators we just could not get through, although they tried every conceivable way. In sheer desperation we sent **Chris Harman** climbing, with aerial, up the nearest tree, but even that gave us the now familiar crackle on the set. No comms.!

A warm welcome from the locals

There was only one thing left to do—make tracks for the nearest village, which was about 5kms. away, and hope one of our roving 'Highway Patrols' would find us. As we arrived at the village green we were almost knocked down by **Lieutenant Vest** and his 'sidekick' **Sergeant K. Webb.** After a few tests **Lieutenant Vest** agreed that our set was 'kaput' and that we were to stay in the village for the night and make for base next day. Now we were doomed to a miserable night on the green alongside the church with a clock that was chiming on the hour every hour, but then we heard music coming from around the corner. We had stumbled on a Schutzenfest and there ended our long night on the green. We were made very welcome by the locals and needless to say a very good time was had by all, much to the envy of the other detachments scattered all over the nearby countryside. We still spent a cold five hours on the green, but that clock didn't spoil our very comfortable night.

Once again, no communications—and the reason why

The next day we set off and after meeting the Duty Technician we decided to try again and make contact. Success. We got through and at last everything was beginning to look brighter. Half-an-hour later we were due to call again, and this time we got absolutely nothing, not even a crackle. Still, we put this down to being half-way up a pretty steep hill, so **Jimmy Simpson** and myself decided to press on to the top and try from there while the others took their time in coming up. Once again nothing. After we had all assembled again we set off along the road to our next point. About 2kms. along this road we stopped again for there in front of us was the reason for our set packing up—the Americans had decided to have a radio station built there. Once past it the set worked perfectly and there was no more trouble from it, only the cases of sore feet. When this started there was only one thing to do, and here our thanks go to the German lorry driver with the empty trailer who saved us a long walk and gave **Chris Harman's** feet a rest.

Home at last

I wonder how many of you readers have been driving along a road and seen a body stretched out at the side of the road? Now please spare a thought for the poor gentleman who wasn't confronted with one body, but four of them, all sound asleep. He obviously thought there had been an accident and was all set to administer first-aid, but fortunately I managed to save his embarrassment by convincing him they were only sleeping. Then came the call we had been waiting for, the final race to the R.V. Once again along came **Lieutenant Vest** in his beloved Land Rover and in about five seconds flat we were in the back and heading for a point about 1km. from our actual destination. He could not take us right in as that would be cheating but we found out later that he had been sent out to look for the group that was farthest from the R.V. (which was us), and bring them in.

Another Exercise 'Hunchback'?

At long last we arrived and after being welcomed in by **R.S.M. B. G. Green** we were glad of the 'bottle' that was passed around.

Exercise 'Hunchback I' was over and once again we assembled in the Training Room to hear how the other detachments had fared and for the debrief, then away, for a very welcome bath and good night's sleep in a comfortable bed.

We have heard on the grape vine that since we enjoyed this exercise so much, the R.S.M. says we can look forward to 'Hunchback II.'

Association Football

The Squadron side have made a good start to the new season. In an unashamed bid to achieve fame we entered the Munster Garrison Minor Units League and at the time of writing are the current league leaders. Our greatest acquisition in the close season was **Signalman Laurie Lawrence,** our inside-right, who we are told is not a bad radio operator to boot! **Captain Michael Vest,** our newly promoted communications Captain, has been celebrating his elevation by showing 'goodwill to all men.' Tragically this has included several opposition forwards, and as our goalkeeper his premature Christmas spirit has not been entirely welcome! We have been drawn against 20 Armoured Brigade H.Q. & Signal Squadron in the first round of the Army Cup (for the second year running) and this promises to be an interesting encounter. They have ground advantage but we hope at least to earn a replay in Munster. Our team captain, **L/Sergeant 'Ginge' Lister,** is convinced we can gain revenge for our defeat at their hands last year. Whatever the result, football will continue to be a major part of the Squadron sporting programme, and we hope we will be able to report continued favourable results in the months that remain this season.

T.M. report

Lance-Corporal 'Andy' Hunt has rejoined us after a successful TII Course at Catterick. Once again the Corporals' Mess bar profit is soaring as he gets back into the form that has spread his fame far and wide. **Sergeant Jim Morrison** has brought his football team out from U.K. and is now settling down to the good life. With the training season upon us upgrading course Q test preparation had produced the usual vast number of definitions of Ohms Law—the best, probably this one from an unnamed Signalman: "If amps flow in a wire, then there must be a current or voltage in it." To the relief of all concerned we must sadly wish him goodbye when he leaves us shortly for Sharjah. News of another welcome move is that of **Staff Sergeant (F. of S.) Gerry O'Sullivan,** who is being sent, for some inexplicable reason, to A.A.C., Harrogate—perhaps to join the basics class. Finally a message from all to **Lance-Corporal G. Waite,** at present in training at 8th Signal Regiment: "Tought luck, lad." He joins us in March, 1971.

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7 Armoured Brigade Signal Squadron (207), B.F.P.O. 37

By 'King Rat'

"JUST done it, just going to do it or just finished, sir" . . . then "B— check it and check it again."

These words still echo in my head, A newcomer to this famous Brigade I was made aware very quickly that the infamous Exercise 'Triangle' was upon B.A.O.R. again. After a week in Soltau I became aware that the soles of the shoes that floated past me daily belonged to our Communications Officer, **Captain Austin,** and **F. of S. 'Tash' Tricker,** but their efforts paid off.

After a trying three weeks (oh, it was rough) to find out who were the Adjutant and R.S.M. who shared a double bed, and whether the O.C., **Major T. Rigby,** shared a private room with a suit of armour, and who was that blonde **Lance-Corporal Kelly?**

Communications were good, the weather fair, the food — let's forget the food—but the aim was achieved, 'Triangle' finished with praise all round and our Commander's words summed it up: 'I could not have done it without good communications."

Classic remark from the exercise, a Staff Officer was heard to say to his driver, "Follow that helicopter." **'Jock' Craig** was made a P.O.W. twice with his water trailer but was always freed; thank you 11th Brigade. In one night we lost our **Y. of S. Jim Rayment, F. of S. 'Tash' Tricker** and the A.S.M. **Tony Jacques** who became bogged down on their way to a Rebro (the A.S.M. thinks F. of S. should be banned from driving). Credit must go to **Corporal Pete Coathup** and **Lance-Corporal Roy Pope** who had just recovered all the line from a rather sprawling village when Brigade H.Q. returned to spend another night. Praise to **Lance-Corporal Eaton** and **Signalman McCarthy** for operating a Rebro from an almost 90-degree angle. Good wishes go to **Corporal Frank Coleman** who asked for his posting to be postponed so that he could stay for the largest exercise of the year.

Back in barracks the leaves are falling and Christmas approaches, but much work lies ahead, the F.F.R. is a few weeks away. **Captain 'Tiny' Reoch,** R.C.T., our M.T.O., is muttering P.R.E.

Plans are well ahead for Christmas so until the 'Rat' puts pen to paper again.

Our best wishes for Christmas to all ex-7th Brigade and indeed all the Corps, a Merry Christmas and a good communicating New Year.

227 Signal Squadron (AFCENT) B.F.P.O. 18

Football

HAVING all of our major exercises behind us for 1970 the Squadron is passing through a period of intense activity, re-configuring and re-wiring vehicles in an effort to improve our standards and eradicate the faults discovered. This, however, does not occupy our members all day and every day so the more energetic or adventurous members have been availing themselves of facilities afforded within AFCENT.

W.O.I (R.S.M.) Tom Burke has been busy doing a Matt Busby on the Squadron team and his spartan training programme has achieved results. The team is now top of the league and must be favourites to come out winners. The recent match against the German Company had all the thrills, spills and national fervour of the World Cup series and ended in a win for the Squadron by five goals to two.

Sailing

The Squadron dinghy has been refurbished and a new enthusiasm for sailing has been apparent since the arrival of **R.Q.M.S. Colin Johnson.** In company with **Corporal Geoff Adams** and **Lance-Corporal Bill Gale, Colin** can be found most weekends sailing at Ohe-En-Laak.

These expeditions seem to be fraught with hazards for **Colin.** Whilst crewing for **Bill Ga'e** the mast snapped and made much better time down the Maas than the dinghy. **Bill** gazed at this phenomena with open-mouthed admiration and when he turned to remark on it he discovered that **Colin** had been submerged for some little time and was not functioning at his best.

Some weeks later, and with a new mast, **Colin** proved he was not deterred by his ducking by crewing for **Geoff Adams** in an attempt to sail up the Maas. After managing only three miles in three hours they turned round; the boat capsized and **Colin** descended to the sub-aquatic realms. He informs me that he definitely heard **Geoff** shout "Capsize" as he surfaced for the third time. If this continues we foresee him being the only yachtsman sailing regularly in scuba gear.

Sedentary hobbies

Staff Sergeant (Y. of S.) Derek Moat has recently emerged as our leading aquarium enthusiast after purchasing tropical fish from **Corporal Charlie Peach.** The deal was finally clinched by **Charlie** pointing out that the Angel fish had just laid 200 eggs, and at three guilders per fish Derek stood to make 600 guilders on the eggs alone.

Alas, after emulating the feat of so many pools winners and planning what he would do with his new-found wealth, his hopes of instant riches were dashed by the adult fish eating their own eggs. He now reckons that he has two Angel fish worth 303 guilders each.

Since this setback he has been disillusioned on a number of occasions in a similar manner. All the more obvious remedies have failed to thwart the cannibalistic instincts of his fish. We feel that if all else fails he will don flippers and get into the tank to defend the offspring. Meanwhile watch this space for bargains in tropical fish.

Permissive society

The hippie cult and the urge to divest garments seemed to have reached AFCENT in this last week. **W.O.I Yeoman Colin Heaps** called **Sergeant Jeff Williams** up to the office to discuss the crypto account. Within minutes of entering the office **Jeff** leapt up and frantically tore off his trousers, threw them on the floor and proceeded to dance a frantic jig on them.

Whilst he was acting like a demented dervish, the Yeoman was cowering behind his desk with his mind working overtime trying to think of a plausible excuse should the O.C. walk in. When **Jeff** eventually ceased his mad gyrations and collapsed in an exhausted heap the Yeoman ventured to ask the cause of the unusual display. **Jeff's** reply was, "I've been bitten." A search revealed a much mangled wasp, an insignificant source for such a show of power.

Sprachen zie Deutsche

Lieutenant Allan Pearce is delighting the German element in AFCENT with his version of Deutsche as it is fractured. His technique is to prefix English words with 'G' and intersperse these with odd, very odd, German phrases.

His vocabulary of colloquial Deutsche has recently increased by tenfold as a result of a slight disagreement with a Citroen in Aachen. He assures us that he is in the right as he jumped the lights on amber whilst the German jumped them on red; we can only hope that the insurance companies agree.

Bi-lingual F.A.C.

As a result of his recent F.A.C. course at Ramstein Air Base the O.C., **Major Bill Morgan,** now reports that he is fully capable of carrying out this task in both English and Americanese.

ODE TO 'WIRE' CORRESPONDENTS

Compact notes and photos clear,
A certain way to bring us cheer,
And come the day you visit here,
For you, good friends, a pint of beer.

234 Signal Squadron (Malta), B.F.P.O. 51

Summer memories

OUR last summer in Lintorn Barracks is now over, for in June, 1971, the Squadron moves to Mtarfa (past members of the now-disbanded 235 Signal Squadron D.C.N., please note that the Corps will be making its home in Malta in your old abode!). It has been a good summer. In June and July we had something for everyone to celebrate our 50th Anniversary—all the events were held on our tennis court, duly decorated for the purpose. T.M. Troop excelled in producing working models of the Shutter Telegraph and Gamble Telegraph, and **Signalmen Victor Attard** and **Lewis Spiteri** produced paintings from 'Through to 1970,' including 'Through' itself. Later on in July Installation Troop ran an excellent dance at Mtarfa, raising some £91 for the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund.

SERGEANT TED WOODLEY
Awarded Army Colours for football 1969/70

In the sporting world **Sergeant Ted Woodley** was awarded his Army Colours (Malta) for the season 1969-70 — our congratulations to him. Also congratulations to our water polo team on winning the Joint Services' Water Polo League; they were also tipped as winners of the knock-out competition to retain the shield from last year, but the final could not be held due to water pollution—it would have been a good feather to have won both, something not achieved before.

Autumn

The arrival of the cooler weather was marked by two welcome visits. The first by **Colonel J. N. Burrell, M.B.E.,** A.A.G. A.G.11, no stranger to Malta, whom we all enjoyed meeting and listened to with interest as he told us of that great world outside Malta. He was followed by **Colonel E. H. Davis,** Colonel Tels./A.D.P., to whom we related our tales of woe—"he spoke into an evil black box and now we find that the evil black box is producing results"—we look forward with confidence to being told just how one is meant to terminate submarine cable on to buoys (a problem that has been with us for many moons!).

Our annual Fitness-for-Role Inspection was carried out by the Army Commander in Malta, **Brigadier P. S. Ward, C.B.E., A.D.C.,** on 22nd October. We were able to visit almost all our parish thanks to the loan of a helicopter for the morning by H.M.S. *Ark Royal*. We think (and hope!) it was a good day.

The autumn also saw the opening of the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital at Mtarfa—an event of concern to us as we have had to provide all the telephone requirements for it. It was an interesting project — flashing night lamps to replace ringing telephones—patients' telephone service and even a telephone in the lift (though we do not guarantee anyone will complete a conversation before the lift reaches the required floor—presumably one just carries on lift-riding!).

[Photo: P.R., Malta

INFORMAL ADDRESS
"I always get compliments about you". Brigadier P. S. Ward addresses 234 Signal Squadron (Malta)

Welcome and farewell

Unfortunately too many have arrived and left for us to name them. All we do say is sincerely welcome to those who have joined us, and to those who have left, "Good night, good luck, God bless you."

661 Signal Troop (LPD) H.M.S. Intrepid B.F.P.O. Ships

Outward bound

SINCE we last appeared in THE WIRE, we have been literally half-way around the world and visited no less than nine countries. We joined the Army to see the sea. Bidding England a fond farewell on 3rd July, we made our way to Casablanca and a four-day run ashore in Africa. Culture in Casablanca took the shape and form of genuine Bedouin belly dancers and we left reluctantly for the remainder of the passage to Singapore.

Next stop was Capetown, a haven after the battering received on the way down, and leaving it five days later we had a tricky time getting out of harbour. The Indian Ocean proved kinder to the 16 Army sailors, and on arrival at Mauritius the Troop went ashore to visit the R.N. Commcen. We were very impressed by the W.R.N.S. who help to keep the Fleet in touch when sailing the oceans of the world. Briefly stopping to give assistance to the Fleet Clearance diving team working on the wreck of the R.F.A. *Ennerdale*, we arrived in Singapore on 15th August. Once more the Troop provided the guard on the flight deck and it is amusing to see the frightened look on the sailor's face when he is confronted by an armed Signalman in No. 3s.

On station

Two weeks in Singapore meant that it was time to get the ship painted in preparation for the arrival of our new O.C. We said goodbye to **Captain Andrew Briggs** and hope that he doesn't languish in 3rd Division. No doubt the Mess will soon get used to "There was a force nine blowing and I turned to the first mate . . . " Our new O.C., **Captain Jeremy Miller,** arrived to be greeted by the Yeoman with a packet of Quells, bequeathed with relief by his predecessor.

Wasting no time in Singapore, *Intrepid* was soon on her way to Borneo and Korea where we did an exercise with the R.O.K. *Marines*. Communications, they say, are international but they did not seem so to **Lance-Corporal 'Scouse' McCarthy** and **Lance-Corporal 'Paddy' King** as they endeavoured to fill in their operator's logs in fluent Korean. They hardly had time to learn how to say "O.K." in Korean before we were off again, this time to Japan and a visit to Hiroshima. Hiroshima has only been visited by three British warships since the war so we were made quite a fuss of. Six hundred ambassadors arrived in Japan on 24th September and 600 fans left on the 29th.

But all is not diplomacy and we had to leave for Hong Kong and a Joint Service exercise. Managing to visit 48 Brigade H.Q. and Signal Squadron for a day, the matelots were reduced to tears when they were offered the tot by **Captain (Q.G.O.) Prembahadur.** Our stay in Hong Kong and the exercise were disturbed by Iris, Joan and Kate, not as you might expect local inhabitants but typhoons. Running from the latter, your correspondent vainly struggles to keep the typewriter on the desk. "I said to the first mate . . . "

Singapore is two days' ahead and the Troop is looking forward to three weeks of sport training with 18th Signal Regiment and respite from the cruel and unrelenting sea.

35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Birmingham

Relax? No!

ONCE again, with the 'Freedom' parade behind us, we moved into a very busy month, which included trade and recruit training, preparation for the technical inspections, laying the line communication for the National Scout Regatta and assistance to 33rd Signal Regiment (V) during The Merchant Taylors School Services' Day, at Crosby. Amid all this activity, we still managed to enter two competitions, with some measure of success.

The West Midland District Patrol Competition, 1970

By Second-Lieutenant R. Heginbotham, 48 Squadron

Having only just applied to join 48 Squadron in July of this year, I was so obviously in line to lead the 48 Squadron team in the competition that hardly had I met the O.C. before he was mentioning it! But my team, and that from H.Q. Squadron, got down to some useful training before the event, but even so, it was with some trepidation that we motored up to Swynnerton on the morning of 10th October.

After lunch, the teams, less their officers, had to do a day patrol, including visits to various stands to test basic internal security drills, first aid and general knowledge, while I and the other officers recced the ground for the night patrol and wrote our orders. The drivers were also being tested in servicing skills, fault finding, and documentation. A reasonable performance in the day patrol, including the obstacle course, and an excellent result by the drivers, saw that we started the night operations in the overall lead.

THE WEST MIDLAND DISTRICT PATROL COMPETITION 1970
Left to right: Second-Lieutenant R. Heginbotham, Signalman C. P. Walsh, Lance-Corporal W. J. Clarke, Signalman M. A. Gold, Signalman R. W. McGowan, Corporal D. H. Manders, Signalman A. E. Evans, Staff-Sergeant D. J. Newby

The night patrol was set in 'Internal Security' type situation. It involved moving cross-country for about one mile over the most rubble-strewn area imaginable, lying in wait at a disused building and then snatching 'Sheamus Mustapha O'Boot,' a notorious terrorist, when he appeared to keep his rendezvous with an accomplice. He was then taken back to camp for interrogation. Poor Sheamus, he was captured 16 times during Saturday night! The drivers also were quite busy, they had an 80-mile night rally which involved some tricky navigation and accurate time-keeping. A considerable number of marks had been allocated to the night operations, and we were very pleased to gain enough of them to remain in the lead.

Sunday morning dawned overcast, but being last away on the forced march at 11.00 hours, it was (of course!) raining steadily. The march of about five miles included an assault river crossing, but even so we, like everyone else, were early on the objective—the 25-metre range where the last phase of the competition was to be fought out. We needed 150 points out of 160 to win, but in the event, only scored scored 138, but still winning the rose bowl for the best non-infantry team. Our drivers spent the morning on safe driving and manoeuvring tests, to such good effects that hey eventually came second (by two points) to a team from the R.C.T.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the competition was watching the consternation produced in the various Infantry teams by a team of 'mere' Signallers! The various cups, including 'our' rose bowl—which was presented by our predecessors, 48th Signal Regiment, in 1961—were presented by **Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, K.C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E.,** G.O.C.-in-C. Headquarters Western Command.

After Sunday lunch, we rushed back to the Squadron bar to start filling the bowl with beer—a fitting end to an enjoyable competition.

Western Command Driving Championship, 1970 Exercise 'Black Dragon'

This championship, for which 120 teams entered, started at Saighton Camp, Chester, and comprised of six tests. The unit entered five teams, of which three teams finished, and two teams were disqualified through being late at a checkpoint and for speeding over a timed road stretch.

The six tests were: Vehicle scrutiny; documents check; a night navigation drive over about 240 miles in North Wales; a further vehicle scrutiny; navigation, highway code, map reading, written tests; advanced driver tests.

Of the three teams completing the course, the W.R.A.C. team came 61st, the 95 (SY) Signal Squadron team came 13th and the combined H.Q./48th Signal Squadron team came overall 2nd, winning the Hermes Challenge Cup for the best Royal Signals entry and the Aston Stedall Trophy for the 2nd placing. This team consisted of: **Sergeant D. Brenni** (navigator) of H.Q. Squadron and **Corporal J. Chambers** (driver) of 48 Squadron.

Departures/Arrivals

The 12th September, 1970, saw **W.O.I (R.S.M.) Eric Robinson's** last day in the Regiment as he left on his first commissioning, or in his own words, "Back to sleeping eight in a bivouac." He had previously been presented with a sword from the Officers of the Regiment and during a social evening in the Sergeants' Mess he was presented with a silver cigarette box. We were sorry to say farewell to **Eric Robinson** after his comparatively short tour in the Regiment, but delighted that he left for such a commendable reason! His cheerful commonsense comments will be missed, as will his ability to appear in the right place at what to some was definitely the wrong time!

We welcome to the Regiment **W.O.I (R.S.M.) P. A. Noble, Staff Sergeant Mabbot, Staff Sergeant Sankey** and **Staff Sergeant Oliver.**

Forerunners of 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron

A Short History of The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry

The Inns of Court Regiment (The Devil's Own)

UNDER various designations the Regiment can trace its history back to Elizabethan times. From then until 1859 the four Inns of Court, in times of national crisis, raised bodies of men for the defence of the country, but these were disbanded on each occasion on the return of peace. In 1584 the Inns formed associations to defend the country against the threatened Spanish invasion. Gentlemen from the Inns also formed part of the Royalist Army in 1644 and, in 1745, were called out against the Jacobite invasion of England. Again, in 1780, they helped restore order during the Gordon Riots and, at this time, Pitt was in the Lincoln's Inn Company. During the Napoleonic wars all the Inns raised Companies, the best known of which was the Bloomsbury & Inns of Court Volunteers. At this time, The Law Association, whose drums are still in the museum, was nicknamed 'The Devil's Own' by George III at a Royal Review in Hyde Park in 1803; this name has clung to the Regiment ever since. The Colours of the Temple Association are also in the museum.

The continuous history of the Regiment dates from 1859. A detachment was sent to South Africa in 1900-1901 but it was in the 1914-18 War that the Regiment carried out one of the most important roles in its history. In four years it trained and commissioned no less than 11,000 officers; it continued to act as an Officer Training Unit between the wars, during which period it was designated a Cavalry Regiment with one Squadron of cavalry and two of mounted infantry.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the Inns of Court provided the staff for two O.C.T.U.s but, in 1940, it was reformed as an Armoured Car Regiment. From 1943 until the invasion of Europe it was under the direct command of 1 Corps, the assault formation of 21 Army Group. On D-Day, 'C' Squadron landed in France and went into action; the remainder of the Regiment followed soon afterwards and, a month later, joined the 11th Armoured Division. The Inns of Court was continuously in action, from Caumont to the Seine, to Antwerp, and finally from the Rhine to the Kiel Canal. After the German surrender the Regiment occupied a considerable area of Schleswig-Holstein.

After the war, in May, 1947, the Inns of Court became the Armoured Car Regiment of 56 (London) Armoured Division but, when this became an Infantry Division in 1956, it was converted to a Reconnaissance Regiment.

The City of London Yeomanry (The Rough Riders)

The Regiment was raised in 1900 as the 20th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and was part of the City Imperial Volunteers. In 1901 it was renamed the City of London Yeomanry and also took the name 'Rough Riders' after a body of volunteer horsemen who fought under **Colonel Theodore Roosevelt** in the Spanish American War of 1898. From 1907 to 1914 the Regimental Headquarters were in Finsbury Square, the funds being raised from the City of London and from the Livery Companies.

In the 60 years from its formation to its amalgamation with the Inns of Court Regiment the City of London Yeomanry changed its role no less than seven times. It was in turn Cavalry, Machine Gun Corps, Royal Horse Artillery, Field Artillery, Light Anti-Aircraft Artillery, an Armoured Regiment and Infantry. One of its outstanding achievements between the wars was to win the King's Cup (open to all R.H.A. Regiments in the Territorial Army) on the two occasions on which it entered, in 1928 and 1933.

The Regiment spent the early years of the Second World War in this country, along with many other Territorial Regiments. Later it saw active service both in the Mediterranean area and in North West Europe.

After the war the City of London Yeomanry became an Armoured Regiment, equipped with tanks, but, in 1956, it became Infantry and was affiliated to The Rifle Brigade.

The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry

On 1st May, 1961, the Inns of Court Regiment and the City of London Yeomanry amalgamated to form The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry and became the Reconnaissance Regiment of 54 East Anglian Division. On 14th June, 1963, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Royal Honorary Colonel, presented the Guidon at a Regimental Parade in the gardens of Inner Temple. Upon the contraction of the Reserve Army in March, 1967, the Regiment was reduced to one Squadron which formed part of the London Yeomanry & Territorials. Many serving members of the Regiment transferred to the Royal Yeomanry Regiment on its formation, and the Band of this Regiment was provided by the Inns of Court & City Yeomanry.

On 1st April, 1969, the Regiment formed 68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Signal Squadron of the 71st Signal Regiment. The long-standing association with the Royal Armoured Corps is maintained by the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry Cadre.

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Standing, left to right: Major P. J. Rowland (O.I.C. Football), Signalman Bupal Thapa, Partap Limbu, Rukbahadur Pun, Lance-Corporal Damabahadur Pun, Signalman Manbahadur Rana, Signalman Suresh Pradhan, Signalman Ratnabahadur Pun

Sitting, left to right: Signalman Birendra Limbu, Staff-Sergeant Lalkaji Gurung, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Dexter, Second-Lieutenant I. A. Noble, Major (Q.G.O.) Harkabir Gurung, M.V.O., Sergeant Ranbanadur Sahi, Signalman Jhalakman Rai

☆ ☆ The Nepal Cup 1970 ☆ ☆

By Second-Lieutenant I. A. Noble

For the fifth time since the introduction of this competition into the Brigade of Gurkhas, Gurkha Signals have won the Nepal Cup.

The Cup was donated in 1949 by **His Highness Maharajah Mohan Shamsher Jangabahadur Rana** to be played for between the units of the Brigade. Previous winners of the cup have been: 1 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas, five times; 2 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas, twice 1 Bn. 6th Gurkha Rifles, four times; 1 Bn. 7th Gurkha Rifles, three times; 2 Bn. 7th Gurkha Rifles, once; Training Depot Brigade of Gurkhas, once; Gurkha Signals, five times.

This year, the build-up started after Exercise 'Bersatu Padu' and the move of the Regiment from Seremban in Malaya to Nee Soon in Singapore, and **Lieutenant G. S. Gordon** having got married since playing the previous year, yours truly was nominated to captain the team.

The rules of the competition are as laid down by the Army Football Association except that each team has to include a British or a Gurkha officer as team captain. Being orientated towards hockey rather than soccer, it took me a while to not bring my stick to practices; it also took a few weeks to get rid of the extra stone in weight I had put on since arriving in the Far East with its Saheb-like way of life. We trained twice a day for one-and-a-half hours, and for us it has payed off.

The first match was played against the Transit Camp, Brigade of Gurkhas, on 15th July. Normally a middling side, they occasionally get some good players passing through their hands. After lunch on the day, the heavens opened, and a torrential downpour soaked the pitch. The game started in overcast weather conditions, and before 10 minutes had gone past, the heavens again opened, and the rest of the match was played in a tropical rainstorm. The result was a wet 4-0 victory for Gurkha Signals.

We therefore went on to meet the Depot, the Brigade of Gurkhas, in the quarter-finals on 1st August. This game was played at the Dover Road Stadium, Singapore, on a typical hot afternoon and our football also went 'hot' as we won 7-0, playing excellent attacking football.

So, onwards to the semi-finals. We are to play 1 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas, who had arrived at the same stage with a bye and victory over the Gurkha Parachute Company by 3-0. We knew they were a different proposition from the two teams we had already played and beaten.

We again played at Dover Road Stadium, on another hot afternoon, and scored two quick goals within ten minutes. The game then proceeded at a fast pace for the rest of the first half, 1 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas replying with a penalty. In the second half, we again scored quickly and retreated into defence with the score at 3-1. The Gurkhas threw everything at us and scored three minutes from time to make the score 3-2, but it was just a little too late for them and we ran out close winners in a hard match.

Now began the long trek to Sungei Patani. The final was played on 27th August and the team and myself went up on the 18th to get ready for the match, against 2 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas.

To those who don't know where Sungei Patani is, if you look at the map of Malaya, it is right in the top left-hand corner, and also on the same map you will see that Singapore is some 550 miles to the south.

Problem 1. How do you move a Regiment 550 miles without disrupting Regimental routine?

Problem 2. How do you get them back the next day to carry on as normal?

If you want the answer, write to **Captain A. F. Carter,** Gurkha Signals.

The final of the Nepal Cup is always played in Brigade Week at the Depot; this is the afternoon after the passing-out parade of the recruits. As a result, the spectators included the Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas, Commandant Malaya

(Continued on page 578)

Area, and all the C.O.s with their wives. There were over 1,500 spectators and B.F.B.S. set up their radio in a commentator box, the commentary being done by **Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Cross, M.B.E.**

After both teams had been presented to **Major-General Horsfold,** I tossed the coin with **Lieutenant A. MacNeil,** of 2 Bn. 2nd Gurkhas, and won, for a change. 2/2nd had, we knew, arrived at the final, having beaten Gurkha Transport Regiment and the Gurkha Engineers, both good teams.

We started badly, 2/2nd scoring after five minutes. This seemed to wake us up and we equalised almost immediately and scored again to take the lead. With our tails up, we had territorial advantage for the rest of the first half but could not score. We opened the second half with a goal in six minutes, and the 2/2nd came back with a goal 10 minutes later. The game flowed back and forth for the next 15 minutes until we scored again, and finished the game off with a hard 25-yard shot by our inside-right for our fifth goal. **Lieutenant-Colonel Cross** was the first to tell us that this is the highest margin by which the Nepal Cup has ever been won.

So ended the football and so began the celebrations which went on long into the next morning.

The team this year had a young average age with two 'burros,' **Staff Sergeant Lalkaji Gurung,** with 15 years of Nepal Cups behind him, and **Sergeant Ranbahadur Sahi** with 11 years. The rest of the team included six ex-St. John's schoolboys, five of whom are on their way to 8th Signal Regiment for the Technicians course (N.B. 8th Signals Football Officer). In 1964 **Major (Q.G.O.) Birendrasing Gurung** presented the Bijaising Memorial Cup to the Regiment for the players who, in the opinion of the Commanding Officer and the Gurkha Major, gave the best and most consistent performance in the competition each year. This year it is to be presented to **Sergeant Ranbahadur Sahi,** our left-back, who unfortunately for the Regiment goes on pension on 6th September.

We look forward to reporting another victory next year.

Corps Tennis

This year, for the first time, the School of Signals won the Southern Command Inter-Unit Lawn Tennis Knock-out Competition. The competition was divided into four sections, by districts. In winning the S.W. District section, the School first played the School of Artillery (this proved to be the hardest match of the competition), and then the Sherwood and Worcester Foresters. In the Command semi-final, victory was achieved against the R.A.O.C. Training Centre in a 50 m.p.h. gale. The School team moved on into the final against H.Q., Southern Command.

This match was played at Buller Barracks, Aldershot, on 29th September, in perfect weather conditions. The School team surpassed themselves, and in spite of some very close games, ran out comfortable winners by six rubbers to nil.

Representing the School were **Majors Bamber** and **Oehlers, Lieutenant-Colonel Lowe** and **Captain Gordon, Lieutenant-Colonel Brown** and **Captain Cornforth,** with **Major Le Hardy** as reserve.

Corps Football

R.A.P.C. 2; Corps 1.
R.C.T. 1; Corps 5.

A look back over the year

Sailing in the Training Brigade 1970 Season

'THE one great disadvantage of Catterick," we were told, "is the fact that there is no sailing nearer than the Lake District." As Yorkshiremen, we knew that the sea was there, but by all accounts encompassed by dangers and covered at all times by short steep waves created by gales that blew continuously from the Arctic. In 1970, however, our hand was forced; Ullswater Sailing Club refused to have Service members and we began to look around for fresh waters.

At the same time we were considering the feasibility of sailing a keel boat in the north. Scarborough was considered as a site because of the proximity of the S.T.C. at Burniston Barracks but the harbour is very crowded and rather inconvenient and so we became members of the sailing club at Hartlepools.

However unsalubrious as a town, Hartlepool contains an extremely useful harbour which can be entered at any state of tide or weather and offers both dinghy and deep-water moorings including a considerable area of locked-in water. We put two of our three Albacore dinghies there and were able to take part in weekend and midweek racing since it is possible to get there in under three-quarters of an hour.

Bringing 'Skywave' north

At about this time the Northern Command Regatta was held. The results were indicative of the sailing strength of the Brigade as we carried off the individual trophy **(Major Bird),** the best novice **(Corporal Girdwood)** and were runners-up in the team prize. For this competition the Apprentices' College entered a separate team and Catterick two teams.

The next event of the year was the bringing of *Skywave* north using the trailer designed for her predecessor, the *Stella Lyra.* On 1st July she was lowered into the water from 'C' jetty of Union dock just astern of a large Russian freighter. The same crane assisted in the raising of her mast and the afternoon was spent getting her ready for sea. Her first crew, which consisted of all the skippers, closed up at the weekend and a short weekend cruise followed. Over the following month she was sailed by six different crews and visited various harbours on the coast between Blyth and Scarborough. She sailed in all approximately 400 miles and was at sea for 17 days. It was on one of these cruises that **Lieutenant Charles Kemp** earned his G.O.C.-in-C's commendation for rescuing two men who had become trapped on a cliff face north of Scarborough. However, other than this mild alarm, no nautical hazards, apart from a whale seen by an Apprentice from Harrogate, were encountered; the wind had blown consistently from the west, and the month passed without 'wrecks or anyone drowned, in fact nothing to laugh at at all." The dock strike caused us to take the boat to Whitby as the industrial cranes of Hartlepool were out of action, but the narrow streets of Whitby were successfully negotiated by that well-known sailor-driver **Corporal Fred Baughan,** and the boat safely returned to Marchwood.

A Brigade team was entered in the Cowes-Dinard race. Sailing in *Skywave,* we had a pleasant race and even more pleasant cruise back. This was done via Sark whose beaches we found to be somewhat oil polluted during a foray ashore for 'duty free.'

Caught up in a gale force nine

Dinghy sailing continued throughout the summer in Hartlepool and as the earlier regatta had been so successful it was decided by Northern Command to hold a second one in the autumn. This time we carried off the team trophy and managed a second and third place in the individual and single-handed races respectively. At the same time the second period of deep-sea sailing was taking place, this time in the south where we chartered *Skywave* for a month. A total of five cruises were held in which much valuable experience was gained (including the exact amount that *Skywave* draws) and several trips across the Channel made. During the course of one of these the yacht, commanded by **Lieutenant Colonel Lockwood,** was caught out in a gale of up to force nine severity and came through unscathed although other much larger boats received considerable damage.

It is now the season of mists and the laying up of boats. Apart from three members of the Brigade who are attending a seamanship course in November, sailing is over for the year. We are, however, looking forward to repeating the programme in 1971.

Obituary

Ex-Sergeant G. P. White

Mr. W. Rigden, of the Catterick and District Branch of the Association, writes:

The death, at the age of 42 years, of Mr. White, on 1st October, at St. Cuthbert's Hospital, Croft, Co. Durham, is a sad loss to the hospital, where Mr. White, known as 'Peter,' had been a handicapped patient for over 10 years. During this time 'Peter' became Assistant Editor of Rockcliffe magazine. (The magazine is produced by handicapped patients). He also became an expert on traction engines and had several articles published in the 'Northern Echo.'

Mr. White ('Tich') an ex-Boy (October '42) will be remembered by many who served with him in Egypt in 3 G.H.Q. Signals Regiment. He held the rank of Sergeant until leaving the Service. Afterwards he became a civilian instructor with 1 Training Regiment (S.T.C.) Catterick Camp, in 1956. During the same year he contracted polio.

'Peter' was an Honorary Life Member of the Catterick and District Branch of the Association, and had been visited by our Welfare Section no less than 200 times.

Major C. Worrin, T.D.

It is with regret that we record the death on Sunday, 18th October, in a London hospital, of **Major Carrington Worrin,** late Royal Signals. 'Tigger,' as he was known to his many friends, was born in 1910 in Davos, Switzerland. He joined the Territorial Army in 1931 and served with it until 1939, from which date he was granted a Regular Commission. In 1946 he was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

He went with the British Expeditionary Force to France on 29th September, 1939; on 27th May, 1940, he was wounded and taken prisoner while leading his cable section of 48th Divisional Signals, which was in action at Dunkirk.

He returned to the United Kingdom in 1945, and there served until 1947, when he went to FARELF and Malaya. Returning again to the U.K. in 1950, he held a variety of staff and training appointments until his retirement from the Army on 25th April, 1959.

He joined the staff of the College as a retired officer on 1st January, 1960, holding the posts of Assistant to the Chief Instructor and, latterly, Assistant Adjutant.

A Fellow of the Zoological Society, Major Worrin was a keen naturalist and ornithologist; he was Honorary Secretary of the Army Birdwatching Society.

In June, 1964, he was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Claro Division of S.S.A.F.A.—a post he held until July of this year.

Deep sympathy is offered to his wife, Peggy, and to their two sons.

Lieutenant Guy Howard Waters

It is with deep regret that the death is announced of Lieutenant Guy Waters, who died suddenly whilst on duty at Dusseldorf on 15th October, whilst serving in 21st Signal Regiment.

The funeral service was held at St. Margaret's Church, Uxbridge, on 22nd October, followed by interment at Hillingdon Cemetery.

Lieutenant Guy Howard Waters

Guy Waters joined the Corps as a boy in September, 1945, and commenced his apprenticeship in the operator trades. This training was discontinued as the school-leaving age was raised and all boys serving at this time pursued mainly academic studies. During his three years with Boys' Squadron, Guy appeared in 1947 and 1948 at the Royal Tournament with the Royal Signals Display Team; this was to decide much of his future in the Corps. He joined the ranks in September, 1948, being one of the final output of ex-Boys from Catterick, and commenced training as a Despatch Rider. Following this training, he joined the cadre of 5th Training Regiment as a D.R. instructor, where he continued to encourage others with his tremendous enthusiasm as a motor cyclist.

A great part of Guy's service was spent with the R.A.F. He was one of the founder members of Gan Signal Troop and of late was R.S.M., 19th Signal Regiment, Changi. It was here that his experience and understanding did much to foster excellent relationships with both the Royal Air Force and the indigenous personnel.

Guy was a keen sportsman and took an active interest in cricket and hockey. He was a Corps standard marksman and will be remembered for his regular appearances at Bisley. He will be missed by his many friends in the Corps, the R.A.F. and T.A. & V.R.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Pauline, and his children, Caroline and Timothy.

Association News

HUDDERSFIELD BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Tom Mellor, Lea House, Shepley, Huddersfield.

Over 50 people sat down to a choice menu at the annual dinner/dance on Friday, 6th November, at the Central Restaurant, Cleckheaton.

The secretary, **Tom Mellor,** gave the Loyal Toast. This was followed by a toast to the Branch by the principal guest **Mr. Bill Bevan,** secretary of the Harrogate Branch. The branch chairman, **Mr. Ken Hiley,** responded; welcoming **Mr. and Mrs. Bevan,** he quickly closed the speech-making and launched us on to the dance floor.

To an efficient band, M.C. **Giles Harrison** led the dancing, mixing with fun and games.

A happy time was enjoyed by all and thanks are due to the committee for the excellent organisation—a successful function.

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RADIO OPERATORS

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